





## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Abbeystead blast blamed on design

The designers of the Abbeystead water pumping station in Lancashire were to blame for an explosion which killed 16 people, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. North West Water Authority and the builders were cleared of responsibility for the disaster in May 1984.

Binnie and Partners, the architects of the £27.5 million scheme, are to ask the House of Lords to overturn the decision. Survivors of the explosion and relatives of the dead are expected to make claims for damages amounting to more than £3 million. Interim payments of £3,500 were ordered by Mr Justice Rose last March.

Lords Justices Fox, Bingham and Russell yesterday agreed that Edmund Nuttall, the builders, who had been found 15 per cent to blame, and the North West Water Authority, the occupier, found 30 per cent to blame, should be cleared. Binnie were ordered to pay all the legal costs, estimated at more than £100,000. They were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords but will be going direct to ask the Lords to hear the case.

## Warning on jobs

British Nuclear Fuel told its 7,500 workers at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant, in Cumbria, yesterday to become more efficient or expect job losses.

In a personal letter to each employee, Mr Alan Johnson, director of Sellafield Management Services, said the cost of reprocessing fuel rods from Magnox power stations had increased five-fold in 10 years. The increasing costs had opened the way for the French nuclear industry to compete for the reprocessing of Magnox fuels. Productivity changes were needed to reduce costs.

## Gang admits affray

Lady Diana Waterlow was punched in the face by a gang of teenagers as she went to the aid of her schoolboy son, Lady Diana, from Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire, "fearing for the safety not only of herself but her son and others", magistrates at Marlborough, Wiltshire, were told yesterday.

James Waterlow, aged 17, was pushed and taunted as he left the tennis courts at Marlborough College during a tournament. Mr Desmond Bloom-Davies, for the prosecution, said, Sir Gerard Waterlow was also punched and kicked with another boy during the attack. Jean Wells, aged 17, from Coldharbour Lane, Marlborough, admitted assault and affray, together with two 16-year-old boys. Another girl, aged 15 admitted affray. All were bailed for reports.

## Girl killer Jail for is hunted ferry man

Police and gypsies were last night hunting the killer of a girl aged five whose partly clothed body was found in a field near her mobile home.

Margaret Lowther had been sexually assaulted and then asphyxiated. She was found on Wednesday evening by a search party from the Mellishaw caravan site, Morecambe, Lancashire.

Det Supt Bill Hacking, whose officers are questioning every adult on the site, warned parents to keep their children indoors until the killer was caught.

## Chelsea tickets rush

A record of more than 5,000 gardeners have joined the Royal Horticultural Society in the past two months since restrictions were announced on the number of visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show.

The society is urging the public to apply now for tickets for May 26 and 27. It will not be possible to buy tickets at the gate as in previous years.

## Pay offer as legal aid fees concern mounts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has made a preliminary offer to the Law Society and the Bar for a rise in criminal legal aid fees, believed to be around 5 per cent, from April 1.

No decision has yet been made by the profession on whether to accept the offer, which coincides with deep concern on present fee levels, expressed to the Lord Chancellor at a recent meeting by Mr Derek Bradbeer, the President of the Law Society.

It also coincides with investigations into a number of

solicitors' firms in London by the police and legal aid authorities for suspected fraud in submitting legal aid payment claims.

Mr Bradbeer would not discuss the negotiations yesterday, but said he was seeing the Lord Chancellor again today to express his concern about legal aid fees.

He said he was concerned that present fee levels were depressing the morale of legal aid practitioners and also causing a number of them to pull out of the work altogether.

## American Express Bank Gold Card Overdraft Account

With effect from 19 February 1988 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Bank Gold Card Overdraft accounts has been increased to 1 per cent per month, and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

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## £10m marked for 'biggest' industry science lab

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

The Government is giving £10 million over six years toward a new type of laboratory at Liverpool University to specialise in academic and industrial contract research in surface science.

The sum is the largest allocated through the Science and Engineering Research Council for one of a series of laboratories to be known as Interdisciplinary Research Centres, or IRCs.

The first grant of £4.5 million was made last December, to Cambridge University, for establishing an IRC to look for breakthroughs in the newly discovered field of superconducting ceramic materials.

The Liverpool project is believed

to be the largest university research centre in the world to be dedicated to science and technology that is increasing in strategic importance to the electronics, aerospace, chemicals, engineering and scientific equipment industries. The centre should be in operation by June.

Dr Neville Richardson, director of the surface science project, said yesterday that he hoped the new centre would stem the drain of young research scientists, particularly those about 24 to 28 years old, to the United States and the Continent.

The university also plans for at least 20 per cent of the research, worth £2 million, to be supported by industrial contracts.

The staff of physicists, chemists, engineers and materials technol-

ogists will comprise seven senior scientists, 16 young research scientists and 27 technical support staff and 27 research students.

The centre will be Britain's focal point for research to look in microscopic detail at what is happening on the surface of materials in making electronic devices, and during chemical reactions in plastics or paint-making plants. It will also examine the causes of corrosion and fatigue in metals.

The centre will have a regular group of scientists on secondment from other university and industrial laboratories.

Another £5 million will be allocated for two other IRCs by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

One in engineering design in-

volves a consortium of universities consisting of Glasgow, Strathclyde, and Heriot-Watt, and Napier and Paisley Colleges.

The other, in molecular science, at Oxford, will concentrate on the study of proteins and their interactions with other molecules to control biological functions, ranging from blood clotting to the response of the body to viral infections.

British computer scientists have built the world's first microchips able to solve problems in a way that mimics the human mind (Robert Matthews writes).

The breakthrough, made after seven years' research by a small team at Linn Smart Computing in Glasgow, promises to lead to small computers capable of tasks such as retrieving information from vast

computerized archives in a fraction of the time needed even by room-sized computers today.

British universities are to receive some of the first batch of the first pre-production versions of the microchips, called Rekuris processors, to investigate their potential.

Mr Marcus Tiefenbrun, a director of the company, said that the new chips would be especially suited to solving the sort of "conceptual" problems, for which conventional number-crunching microchips are particularly weak.

Mr Tiefenbrun said that his company had invested about £2 million in the development of the chip over in the past seven years, and had had backing from the Department of Trade and Industry.

## Cabinet rules out extra health funds in Lawson Budget

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government made plain yesterday that there would not be any announcement of extra funds in the Budget for the National Health Service.

Instead it will be confined to an announcement of the widely expected tax cuts.

After yesterday's Cabinet had spent 45 minutes discussing an outline of the Budget strategy from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Government took the unusual step of issuing a formal statement.

This declared: "The Cabinet today held the usual pre-Budget economic discussion. They reaffirmed the economic strategy."

"They welcomed the satisfactory prospects for the economy and agreed that economic policy should remain prudent and cautious."

"They noted that increases in public expenditure programmes for the coming year of £4,500 million had already been decided, announced, and would be debated next week."

"The Cabinet stressed that the forthcoming Budget is an occasion to review taxation and borrowing."

The announcement was a clear response to Labour's

public campaign to "Make Budget Day National Health Day", aimed at pushing the Chancellor into using £2 billion of his revenues to increase NHS spending.

Ministers agree that the Budget statement does not rule out dipping into the contingency reserve to find extra funds later in the year to help health authorities to meet any increase in nurses pay recommended by the pay review body which will report to the Government before Easter.

In the Commons yesterday Mrs Margaret Thatcher emphasised that the Government had already committed an extra £1.1 billion to the NHS for next year beyond what had originally been planned. That is what it would cost the Chancellor to trim the standard rate of income tax by 1 per cent.

She said that the Government had given the health service the biggest cash increase it had ever known.

A Tory-controlled committee of MPs is set to cause the Government serious embarrassment by rushing out, just days before the Budget, a report demanding immediate

extra resources for the National Health Service.

The all-party Social Services committee is expected to endorse the demand of the National Association of Health Authorities for an immediate injection of £170 million, which is the amount by which the association believes its members are currently underfunded.

The committee will also insist that the Government funds in full the coming pay award and all future pay awards.

The British Red Cross Society has complained to the Labour Party over what it regards as the theft of its internationally recognized symbol of neutrality.

Labour has printed one million copies of a campaign leaflet, supporting greater funding of the National Health Service and carrying a prominent red cross.

Yesterday Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, tabled a Commons question to Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, suggesting that the Labour Party be prosecuted for using the symbol.

## Health service crisis

## Doctors' alert for patients

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A group of consultants have placed local newspaper advertisements telling patients that their hospitals can admit only emergency cases because of a severe shortage of theatre nurses and financial cutbacks.

Hospital doctors and general practitioners in Redbridge health authority, east London, have announced that they can no longer treat patients to the best of their ability or within a reasonable time.

The doctors say in the advertisement in the *Ilford Recorder* that 20 per cent of the authority's beds are closed, including 40 per cent of all surgical beds.

The 170 doctors say that problems have been exacerbated because other London hospitals which previously accepted patients from Redbridge are now closing their doors to patients outside their own districts.

Operating theatres and surgical beds in Redbridge health authority have had to be closed because of staff shortages and there are now only two theatres open in the district, at King George Hospital, Ilford, and Barking Hospital.

The advertisement refers to shortage of "National Health Service doctors in Redbridge and adds: "Nationally agreed wages are poor and fail to attract suitable persons."

Yesterday Dr Ann Beardwell, chairman of Redbridge district medical committee, said that routine procedures such as hip and hernia operations have not been carried out for several months and waiting lists are soaring.

"We are now having to say

to patients that we will refer them for surgical procedures when we know that they may never get that operation."

"Even cancer surgery is now under threat. Women may have a lump in their breast and we cannot admit them for investigation for two to three weeks."

GP's suffered the brunt of complaints from patients but

the unions are the Confederation of Health Service Employees, National Union of Public Employees, General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades, and Transport and General Workers Union.

They say that most auxiliary staff "are barely existing on poverty pay propped up by state benefits for those with families."

Four hundred nurses in South Wales voted to strike on March 1, St David's Day, a joint National Union of Public Employees and Confederation of Health Service Employees ballot at three psychiatric hospitals, Glamorgan, Farnham, and near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, was 82 per cent in favour. The strike is in support of more NHS cash.

More than 100 babies and children are awaiting cardiac surgery under the National Health Service at the hospital, but the officials said the private patient had been treated according to medical need and not ability to pay.

A shortage of specialist nurses at the hospital has led to postponed operations on children in need of vital heart surgery.

Mr Babul Sethi, a consultant cardiologist at the hospital, said the baby had been on the waiting list for several months and his heart operation had been cancelled more than once.

"He was operated on as a semi-emergency. He has been in hospital several weeks awaiting surgery and in no way has he been given priority treatment."

## TV-am dispute

## Journalists reject strike call

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Journalists at TV-am yesterday rejected by two-to-one a call to support technicians dismissed by the commercial breakfast-time station. They are now expected to work with non-union crews.

The vote in the secret ballot, 60 to 29, defied a recommendation to go on strike by officials of the National Union of Journalists at the London studios and the union's national broadcasting organizer.

One senior reporter said last night: "This was a watershed vote. There is no turning back now."

After a two-hour meeting it was the senior reporters, many of whom appear regularly on screen, who swayed the result by rejecting any form of industrial action.

Officials of the journalists' union, the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance and technicians' unions were meeting last night to discuss future strategy, but TV-am journalists were in no doubt they would drop their opposition to working with technicians who are not members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, which has been banned by the management.

Mr Bruce Gynell, managing director of TV-am, is already setting about replacing the dismissed technicians, who had been on strike since November.

Reports that TV-am intended to import technicians from Australia to fill the gaps left by the cameramen, sound recordists and video engineers were described yesterday as "absurd and total nonsense."

Mr Gynell will be looking to hire most of the 150 technicians he requires from television production companies.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the technicians' union, described the journalists' vote as foolish and short-sighted but not unexpected.

## Destined for the Pole



Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer (right), left Heathrow for Canada yesterday with Dr Mike Stroud (left) and Mr Oliver Shephard to start an attempt to reach the North Pole in record time using sledges made of lightweight plastic (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

## Dublin election call ruled out

By John Cooney

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday dampened speculation that he would announce a snap general election during his party's annual conference which opens this evening in Dublin.

Rumours that he was preparing to go to the country swept the Dail late on Wednesday when his government was defeated unexpectedly on a private member's motion.

The Fianna Fail government party lost that vote when one of its own backbenchers, Mr Willie O'Dea, of Limerick, broke ranks and voted against the proposed closure of a hospital in his constituency.

At the weekly meeting yesterday of the Fianna Fail parliamentary party, Mr Haughey quickly restored discipline by obtaining unanimous support for a motion withdrawing the whip from Mr O'Dea.

Mr Haughey also restored party morale by firmly ruling out an immediate general election.

It was the third defeat on a public spending issue for the

government, which took office last March.

The three defeats — two of them before Christmas — were not confidence issues requiring an election, but the stability of Mr Haughey's minority government was badly shaken by the unexpected defeat on Wednesday.

The loss of Mr O'Dea further weakens the position of the government, which could be toppled if opposition forces and independents combined on an important issue.

Mr Haughey's handling of the "shoot-to-kill" affair with Britain has almost certainly boosted his standing with voters enraged by what in the Irish Republic is perceived as British high-handedness.

However, Mr Haughey decided that an immediate election would divert attention away from his campaign to muster international support against Britain for refusing to prosecute Royal Ulster Constabulary officers implicated in the shootings of Irishmen investigated in the Stalker-Sampson inquiry.

## Hermon to pay £4,000

An award of £4,000 damages was made against Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, in a civil action yesterday.

Mr Noel Carroll, of Mullacreevie Park, Armagh, alleged police ill-treatment, which included a gun being put to his head, in Armagh police station after he was arrested on September 24, 1985.

The judge, sitting in Craigavon, said RUC officers had

covered up the truth with their account.

Mr Carroll, who has four children, said later that he and his family had been subjected to a campaign of harassment by the security forces, including the murder of his brother Adrian five years ago.

He said he had "no faith and no hope" that it would end.

Four soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment were jailed for life in 1986 for the murder of Adrian Carroll.

## P&amp;O cuts officers' days off

By Tim Jones

Shop stewards representing officers employed by P&O European Ferries at Dover were meeting last night to discuss "unnecessary and provocative" action by the company which may deprive them of 127 days off a year.

Members of the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers (Numast), some of whom work only 80 days a year, said the company was "totally unjustified" in breaking its agreement with them.

They have been laid off on full pay because of the dispute between the company and the National Union of Seamen.

The holidays cut has been imposed by Mr Graham Dunlop, the company's managing director.

In a letter to the 600 officers, who are not in dispute with the company, Mr Dunlop says they will remain on paid leave during the time they are off work but will cease to accumulate their extra leave entitlement of 10.6 days per calendar month.

The additional days off are covered by Ship's Articles which apply only to service at sea.

P&O said it could not allow the agreement to continue when officers were not at work. It also accused Numast of refusing to discuss proposed changes to fleet operations, a charge the union rejected.

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## Councils 'diverting millions meant for building new roads'

By Howard Foster, Peter Davenport and Ian Smith

County councils were accused by a Cabinet minister and road interests yesterday of switching millions of pounds intended for new highway construction into other projects.

The councils are already under attack by the Department of Transport for holding back £148 million allocated by central government for road repairs.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, complained that funds had been paid to county councils at a time when the condition of local roads were deteriorating.

But, he said, the councils were diverting the money to other projects, although the grants had increased by 28 per cent over the past two years.

His comments were supported yesterday by the British Road Federation, the group representing the road-users' lobby. It said that despite funding from central government, the county councils were more than £120 million

underspent on capital road projects.

"Road maintenance and construction are being singled out almost uniquely for underspending", Mr Richard Diment, the federation's spokesman, said.

"The councils were meant to spend £617 million on new construction in the current financial year. Of that, £180 million comes from central funds and the councils match it."

"Of the remainder, the councils are only spending £111 million, leaving over £120 million outstanding."

"The situation is getting worse. The councils must be made to spend the necessary money to keep the roads in good condition, otherwise the whole thing could become very dangerous."

The Association of County Councils said yesterday that underspending on road maintenance was happening because the councils were faced with a choice of putting

money towards road repairs or such fields as education and social services.

"Councils would be faced with the problem of which school you close", the association said. "There has not been any increase in real terms in the total grant paid to local government, nor in the total amounts which the Government is prepared to see local authorities spending on all their services."

At present, the road repair funds paid by the Government to the councils is included in the overall block grant and there are no powers to constrain the councils to earmark a similar allocation for road repairs, or the building of new roads.

"The arguments for underspending on both road aspects are parallel", the association said.

"We have to work within the rate support grant or we are penalized by central government for overspending."

## Fears over the white cliffs

The Countryside Commission has expressed concern that the full implications of the proposed extension of the A20 across the white cliffs of Dover have not been fully appreciated by the public.

A public inquiry began last week into proposals for the eastern section of the road, at

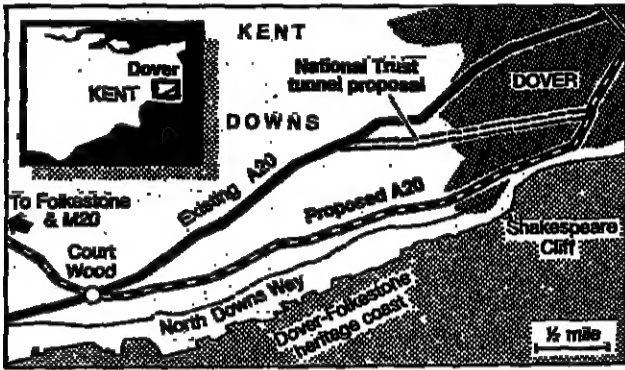
which the objects are led by the National Trust, with the commission's backing.

Because the western section was included in the hybrid Channel Tunnel Act, the fear is that the entire road will be seen as part of the railway works associated with the tunnel's construction.

The commission says that the tunnel works are causing temporary disruption but the proposed new road would permanently scar the rolling chalk landscape between Folkestone and Dover.

Mr Ian Mitchell, the commission's south east regional officer, describes it as one of the most damaging schemes to have been put forward in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

The commission, which is due to give evidence to the inquiry early next month, is supporting the trust's proposal to take the most sensitive section of the road through a tunnel. But it also believes that, once the Channel tunnel is built, the road will prove to be unnecessary and that Dover-bound traffic should be encouraged to use the M2/A2 rather than the M20.



## Father helped ill woman die

A father helped his chronically ill daughter to kill herself to put an end to her suffering, George Beecham, aged 63, checked every 15 minutes for four hours to make sure Mrs Lesley Ann Platt was not suffering as she gassed herself in the back of her car.

He called the police and said: "It was like walking your daughter to the gallows. My daughter is more important to me than the consequences of my action."

At one stage he put a quilt over Mrs Platt, aged 35, after she complained of feeling cold. Peterborough Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mrs Platt, a nursing sister married to a RAF officer, could no longer face life after recovering from cervical cancer only to find she had multiple sclerosis.

Beecham, of Costock Road, Nottingham, admitted aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the suicide of his daughter, and was given a 12-month suspended sentence.

Mr Richard Latham, for the prosecution, said Mrs Platt could hardly walk or sleep and had twice tried suicide.

Clutching a photograph of her father, she went with him to the garage of her house in Priory Road, Needingworth, Cambridgeshire.

Beecham said: "She put the pipe on the car and started the engine. She did it all herself because she didn't want me to get into trouble. I did it because that is what she wanted."

## Postgraduates are giving 'poor value'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government was severely criticized by an all-party Commons committee yesterday for its extraordinary lack of control over its £78 million postgraduate award scheme.

The Public Accounts Committee pointed to remarkable figures produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General showing that in some disciplines nearly four out of five postgraduate students failed to submit theses within four years of starting their research. If at all. Even in the best-run courses only one in two postgraduates submitted theses within four years.

In a scathing report, the normally restrained committee said it was "concerned and disappointed" that little had been done to improve this record despite serious criticisms made by the same committee eight years ago.

It accused the bodies which made the awards of being "more concerned with granting awards than with the value for money, including wider benefits to the economy, obtained from the timely completion of theses".

And it called for a system of sanctions to be operated against those universities that fail to meet pre-set submission targets.

In oral evidence to the committee, the Department of Education and Science had been unable to defend the very low submission rates which it admitted were in some cases

"inexcusable", though it did argue that failure to submit a thesis did not automatically mean a student's research was valueless.

The grants are awarded either by the department or by the four research councils. Submission rates for the department's awards in the humanities were just 23 per cent.

The Economic and Social Research Council had improved its submission rates from 17 to 35 per cent, but even 10 years after students had begun their research just 54 per cent had submitted their theses. Only the Science and Engineering and the Medical Research Councils had submission rates of more than 50 per cent.

Committee of Public Accounts: Postgraduate Awards (Stationary Office, £3.70).

Twenty-eight institutions are now on a blacklist published by the Economic and Social Research Council because too few of their postgraduate students submitted council-funded theses on time.

The blacklist policy bans new funding to institutions where fewer than 35 per cent of council students fail to complete theses in four years and is recommended to other funding bodies, notably the Department of Education and Science, by the Public Accounts Committee.

The council last month added eight institutions to the blacklist.

## Nelson hair fetches £5,000

A lock of Nelson's "dear hair", snipped by his lover Lady Emma Hamilton, was bought for £5,000 yesterday.

The grey-blond hair is entwined as though in a loose lovers' knot and set in an oval frame. It was sent by a unhappy Lady Hamilton to Captain James Rose, one of Admiral Lord Nelson's naval colleagues in 1807 - two years after Nelson's death at Trafalgar. Rose was then in charge of HMS Agamemnon.

A letter to Rose, auctioned with the hair, at Lawrence Fine Art in Crowthorne, Somerset, says: "I will send you when I go to Milton and have served strong enough to open the paper some of His Dear Hair. He loved & respected you... I rejoice you have got old Agamemnon, in happier days I have been often on board her." It is signed: "Your affectionate and grateful but unhappy Emma Hamilton... Harriet sends you a kiss".

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

The hair and letter were sold by a descendant of Captain Rose's elder brother, Henry. The estimate was between £1,000 and £2,000. The lot was bought on behalf of a private buyer by the Crenshaw dealers Smallwood and Randall.

Bloomsbury Book Auctions in London sold a group of 11 letters copied from originals written by Lord Byron to John Hunt, his publisher, in 1822 and 1823 for £800 against an estimate of up to £450. The originals are widely scattered. The set includes a number of hitherto unknown poems.

A 280-volume *Specifications of Inventions from the Patent Office*, dated 1889 to

1904, and including "improvements in means for supporting bicycles" and "improvements relating to food-holders for birds-cages" fetched £2,800 - just below estimate.

British and Irish traditionalist and modernist paintings made a respectable, if unspectacular show at Christie's, the top lot being for "Twilight" - an atmospheric landscape by Sir George Clausen which sold to the Pyma Gallery for £7,150 against an estimate of up to £2,000. Leggett Brothers bought a portrait of Ellen Joyce, the concert pianist, on behalf of the National Portrait Gallery for £792 (estimate £400 to £600).

## Putting on the style



Sir Clement Fread, the former Liberal MP and dog-food promoter, and Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East and scourge of his party's leadership, don t-shirts in London yesterday to promote the International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition which opens at Olympia on Sunday. Sir Clement, in green tweed jacket, and trousers with co-ordinating shirt and tie, also sported his famous lugubrious look, while Mr Livingstone seemed far more cheerful about his brown tweed jacket and matching trousers, tie and shirt.

## Speed vital in prosecutions for child abuse

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Court cases involving child abuse are to be given greater priority by the police and prosecution services in an attempt to minimize the damage caused to youngsters.

The Government wants the ordeal for young child abuse victims to be over as quickly as possible and is to advise police to avoid long delays in bringing cases to court.

Mr John Patten, the Minister of State at the Home Office, said child abuse cases deserved the highest priority with the overriding consideration being to keep to a minimum the stress on young victims and witnesses.

New guidance is to be sent to the police and Crown Prosecution Service to try to

ensure speedy progress for child abuse cases. "Stress on child victims and witnesses can be minimized by avoiding delays, wherever possible, in bringing such cases to court."

"The shadow of an impending court case should hang over a young child for as short a period as possible. Child abuse cases should not fall simply because the time between the alleged offence and the hearing has been so long that the young victim's recollection has been impaired."

Mr Patten added: "The damage done by child abusers to their victims must not be added to by avoidable delays in bringing criminal proceedings. These cases deserve high priority."

## Dismissed pregnant woman wins her case

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

A woman made redundant by a local authority after becoming pregnant was unfairly dismissed, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Mrs Maria Brown was a Youth Training Scheme supervisor for Stockton-on-Tees District Council, Cleveland. The scheme was reorganized and Mrs Brown, who had inquired about maternity leave, was interviewed for a job under the new system. The council made her redundant.

Several weeks later, in July 1985, an industrial tribunal in Middlesbrough ruled that Mrs Brown, of Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, had been unfairly dismissed. The following June an employment appeal tribunal reversed the decision.

Mrs Brown's union, the National Union of Public Employees, which had instigated the claim, took her case to the Court of Appeal. The judges backed the appeal tribunal, saying that the council was entitled to take into account Mrs Brown's need for maternity leave in selecting her for redundancy. The Court

of Appeal refused the union leave to go to the Lords.

The union, though, petitioned for and won a hearing in the Lords.

After the Lords ruling, Mrs Brown, aged 35, said: "I did not expect that it would come all the way to the House of Lords. I am stunned and delighted by the decision."

Stockton-on-Tees District Council was ordered to pay costs, which are expected to be far in excess of the £6,000 compensation Mrs Brown was claiming.

If compensation cannot be agreed, an industrial tribunal will decide the amount.

## Rover record

Austin Rover has won its best fleet-car order with a deal to supply Avis with 12,000 cars worth £110 million this year. It takes the company's orders from rental operators this year to 59,000 vehicles, close to its total fleet car sales in 1986.

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APR 23 ONWARDS



# Ministers to remain accountable for their departments

## Agencies to run executive side of government

New agencies, under chief executives, are to take over the day-to-day running of central government.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told MPs in a statement that the executive functions of government — as distinct from policy decisions — are to be carried out, to the greatest possible extent, by agencies within departments under the day-to-day control of a chief executive.

She said that would not require a change in the law. One of the first departments to be brought into the new scheme would be the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea.

These agencies would generally be within the Civil Service and their staff would continue to be civil servants. Each agency would be accountable to a minister who would in turn be accountable to Parliament for its performance.

The Government would develop a continuing programme for establishing agencies. A permanent secretary in the office of the Minister for the Civil Service would be responsible for managing the changes, through the head of the Home Civil Service, to the Prime Minister.

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Opposition, said that a continuing review of the functions and performance of the Civil Service was necessary to improve its efficiency, accountability and service to the public.

Guidance notes had been given to senior civil servants with the suggestion that they should be read alongside the Prime Minister's statement and the document that had just been placed in the Vote Office.

The notes said that in a few cases it might be appropriate to set up executive agencies outside the Civil Service, for example by setting up private limited companies. If the Government was contemplating turning part of the Civil Service into a private limited company was it not the Prime Minister's duty to tell the House?

One paragraph of the notes said that MPs were to be encouraged to approach agency management in the first instance. That was a clear erosion of parliamentary responsibility.

The guidance said that the reduction in civil servant numbers had not reduced the service

### PRIME MINISTER

that the Civil Service provided, but had the Prime Minister never heard of the queues at DHSS offices or the 2,000 unopened letters at Lunar House, the immigration office in Croydon?

If there was to be a radical review of the Civil Service, could the Opposition be promised that changes would proceed by discussion with all parties in the House?

The Civil Service was not the property of any one government and to maintain confidence in its impartiality and efficiency, changes in its organization had to be made by consensus, not by confrontation with all parties in the House.

Mrs Thatcher said that the executive agencies would generally be set up within the Civil Service. On some occasions it would be better to set them up outside. There would be consultation with the trade unions when they were set up.

MPs frequently wrote either to the manager of the local social security office or to an income tax inspector because they frequently got a much quicker reply that way and there was nothing unusual about it.

The numbers in the Civil Service had fallen. They were now 588,000, the lowest since the war. The numbers of particular departments including parts of the DHSS had increased as the need arose.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) asked for confirmation that there would be no change in the relationship between ministers, civil servants and Commons select committees.

Mr Alan Bates, Liberal spokesman on Treasury affairs, said that he welcomed any developments in organization which allowed civil servants to exercise more personal responsibility, but he strongly opposed any attempt to strip MPs of questions on matters dealt with in the agencies.

Mrs Thatcher said there would be no change in the arrangements for accountability. Ministers would continue to account to Parliament for the work of their departments, including the work of the agencies.

Mr William Clark (Croydon South, C) asked whether the



Mrs Thatcher: Agencies will be under the day-to-day control of a chief executive

Prime Minister was satisfied that this streamlining would lead to better value for money.

Mrs Thatcher said that that was its purpose, as well as increasing personal responsibility.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) said that one of the reasons for the low morale in the Civil Service was that the Prime Minister had appointed so many confirmed Thatcherites to some of the better jobs.

It would be very damaging for the country if she were to embark upon an attack on the Civil Service comparable to that she had made on the universities, the NHS and local authorities.

Mrs Thatcher said that she totally rejected that.

Mrs Thatcher said later that it was intended that there should be more flexibility on pay in the agencies and that there should be performance-related pay.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Henley, C) said that the logic of this was that there should be contracts for those in charge of executive agencies so that there was full personal accountability.

Would she consider the progress of recruitment to the Civil Service by contract, as opposed to permanent life tenure?

Mrs Thatcher said: In the majority of the agencies, it will take place within the Civil Service, but this will not be exclusively so and I will consider what he has said in relation to those not established in the Civil Service.

If there were any fundamental changes in terms and conditions of pay, that would have to be in conjunction with, and after consultation with, the Civil Service. Recruiting had to be done under the established rules.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab), chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, asked how Mrs Thatcher would ensure a proper interchange between the agencies and Government departments.

Would she confirm that the National Audit Office would continue to be able to audit all the agencies and so present to the PAC and the Commons the essential information?

Mrs Thatcher said that in so far as the agencies were within the Civil Service, the National Audit Office would, of course, continue to apply. That would not be so where the agencies were set up outside.

Mr Michael Shersby (Uxbridge, C) asked how the agencies would be selected.

Mrs Thatcher said that at present there was a list of 12 suitable executive agencies to be set up. These had come from ministers.

## Labour's NHS attack over Moore speech

### HEALTH

A speech by Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, provided the ammunition for a Labour attack on the Government's handling of the NHS during questions to the Prime Minister.

But Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Opposition, had based his questions on a false supposition of what Mr Moore had actually said.

Mr Hattersley asked whether the speech, to the Young Conservatives' Conference in Eastbourne last weekend, represented official Government policy.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I went all the way through the speech (laughter). It was excellent.

Mr Hattersley quoted Mr Moore as saying, on the resources that he was allocated for spending on the health service this year: "I did not think it was enough". Did Mrs Thatcher repudiate her minister?

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Hattersley had left out a part of Mr Moore's sentence — (Conservative cheers). He had said: "I did not think it was enough in terms of the changes all of us would like to see as far as primary health care services are concerned".

Mr Moore had gone on to explain where the extra resources for primary health care were to come from.

"I may say, misreporting occurred in one paper, but in

another paper it was quite accurate."

Mr Hattersley said that he would quote a further sentence from Mr Moore in its entirety. Mr Moore had said: "I wanted to see additional resources over and above those which I have secured".

As far as I can make out, all the country wants to see additional resources except the Prime Minister. Why does she not provide them (Labour cheers)?

Mrs Thatcher said that that sentence had referred to primary health care services and Mr Moore had gone on to say that he was going to get extra resources from changes which had already been before the House and of which Mr Hattersley had disapproved.

"The fact is, he has asked his question on a false supposition because he did not read the speech and he disapproves of the places from which the extra resources are to come."

Mr Moore had gone on to say that it had been the Labour Government that had first started the introduction of charges.

"Extra resources are coming next year. They are the biggest cash increase the health service has ever known — £1,100 million."

## Nurses' protest inquiry wanted

### DEMONSTRATION

by Seasonal Orders to keep the streets leading to the House of Commons free and open.

Mr Canavan's question had been directed at the Home Affairs Secretary.

Some police officers had been involved in the handling of the peaceful demonstration on February 3, he told Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

"Does he not realize nurses and health service workers would not have to take to the streets if this Government had given them the same kind of generous pay increases as they have handed out to the police in recent years?"

Mr Hogg said that he understood from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner (Mr Peter Imbert) that the police actions had been taken in pursuance of his general duty to ensure the free passage of the highway and the requirement placed on him

by Seasonal Orders to keep the streets leading to the House of Commons free and open.

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## Office move to save cash

The financial savings and operational improvements that would result from the transfer of the UK Patent Office from central London to South Wales made the case for that move conclusive, Mr John Betcher, Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during a short debate early on Thursday.

He was replying to Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C), who said that London was the proper home for the Patent Office. He was not going to argue the abandonment of the idea of relocation, but he was calling for discussion and consultation.

## MPs in jail for debate

MPs are to debate the Ulster situation on Thursday of next week, despite the fact that some Ulster Unionist MPs are expected to be in prison on that day.

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pressed for the day for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Acts 1978 and 1987 (Continuance) Order to be changed after it had been announced by Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House.

Mr Rees said that he regarded the timing of the debate as unfortunate, as a high proportion of Unionist members were going to be in jail.

Mr Wakeham said that he was sorry if MPs had other arrangements, but he could not alter the business. He thought that discussion of the Statute of Westminster would be possible during the debate.

## Statement complete



The Prime Minister was asked at question time by Mr John Hume (Fylde, SDLP) (above) whether she approved of the principle enunciated by the Attorney General in his statement last month on the RUC that the interests of national security transcended the rule of law, even in cases of loss of human life.

Mrs Thatcher replied that she did not accept the description in any way. The Attorney General (Sir Patrick Mayhew) had made a complete statement in the discharge of his duties. She had nothing to add (Labour protests).

## Objection to leaks

The Chief Constable of West Yorkshire was under a responsibility to stop the leaks from his force of officers against Mr John Stalker by linking him to the death or murder of a Sergeant Speed, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said at question time.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said Mr Campbell-Savours was in no position to lecture anybody. The chief constable had handled himself through this whole business with high distinction.

## Index error 'led to loss by very few'

A very small group of people, 175,000 out of 12 million, were over-compensated for the error in calculating the Retail Price Index, which had affected pensioners' benefits, the Prime Minister told MPs.

But, she said, more than two million people who had lost nothing by the error would nevertheless receive an £8 special payment.

The under-compensation had been of the order of £1 million and the over-compensation of the order of £16 million.

Mr Paul Flynn (Newport West, Lab) had said that there was widespread fury in the country at the "big breakfast" her Government had made of the ex-gratia payments.

"There are tens of thousands of war pensioners, the disabled,

invalids and other pensioners who have been cheated by this choice."

Nearly one in ten of all of those with combined pension books had lost.

Mrs Thatcher said that there had been no legal requirement on the Government — (protests) — to make these payments.

"We however estimated that the total estimated social security underspend was £109 million, on which special payments of over £101 million have been made to over 12 million people."

That was not the whole story. In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson) had made available a further £7 million to voluntary charities specifically to help people in low-income groups.

## Trident's sunken parts

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) sought a Government statement on the loss two weeks ago of Trident parts from a ship in the Irish Sea.

He said that on February 5 vital parts of a Trident submarine fell off the deck of a Bahamian-registered tug. The next day, nothing, apparently having been learnt, other parts

fell off the deck. "Oscar Wilde had something to say on these matters", he said.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, who had outlined next week's business, told him that he did not have the details, but he would see what the Ministry of Defence had said and would write to Mr Dalyell.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Timetable motion on the Local Government Finance Bill.

Tuesday: British Steel Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on Government's expenditure plans for 1988-89 to 1990-91.

Thursday: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Acts 1978 and 1987 (Continuance) Order.

Friday: Private members' motions.

The main business in the House of Lords will be Monday: Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Bill, third reading.

Tuesday: London Local Authorities Bill, second reading. Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, report, first day.

Wednesday: Debates on developing disparities in opportunity and income and on the case for policies to reduce divisions in the community.

Thursday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, report, second day.

Friday: Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill, second reading.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's motion on rural development.

Lords (11): Debate on DTI White Paper.

## Remand limits to be extended

### HOME OFFICE

Limits on the length of time a person can be remanded in custody awaiting trial will cover the whole of Wales and England from April 1, Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said at question time. They will be extended to cover the whole of England.

On December 31, the unsentenced prison population was about 10,480, not counting 474 mostly unsentenced prisoners held in police cells. That was just more than 22 per cent of the total prison population.

Mr Anthony Combs (Wye Forest, C) said that when the all-party penal affairs committee visited Wormwood Scrubs two weeks ago they had been told of a person remanded in custody for not buying a bus ticket. What plans did the Government have for a feasibility study of tagging or alternatives to prison?

Mr Patten said that that was a most interesting question, which should be considered by the Home Secretary and himself.

Mr Gerald Steinberg (City of Durham, Lab) asked the Home Secretary to look at the experience of Scotland where prisoners must be brought to court within 110 days or freed.

Mr Patten: That is exactly what we are doing.



Mr Patten: Considering private management scheme

Mr Roger Gale (Thanet North, C) asked what consideration was being given to the private management of remand prisoners.

Mr Patten: We are greatly constrained by the law in this respect, but we are very interested in the suggestion and we are considering it.

Other Home Office questions included the following:

Many MPs found the present arrangements for intervention on immigration cases unsatisfactory, and the Government therefore hoped to put forward proposals for changes to improve the service within weeks, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, said during questions.

Mr Stuart Randall, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that he looked forward to the new proposals, but he reminded the minister that MPs were jealous of their rights and, if they were weakened, immigrants rather than MPs would lose.

Would the minister increase the number of staff and the building space at Lunar House, Croydon, to make sure that adequate services were provided for MPs?

Mr Renton said that he had many powers, but it was beyond him to increase the building space at Lunar House. The building was there and he could not increase it.

The Labour Party should stop facing in two directions at once on this issue. They complained about delays, but then voted against the new proposals, which would have removed two-fifths of cases a year from Lunar House. That was hypocrisy.

Salima Begum, an Asian girl whose immigration case had involved the use of genetic fingerprinting, was allowed to remain in Britain after the satisfactory conclusion of inquiries, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, announced during questions.

He was thanked by Mr James Lamond (Oldham and Royton, Lab), who had asked when there would be a decision on the request by Salima, daughter of Mr Gura Miah, to remain with her parents in the United Kingdom.

Mr Lamond said that the case had put the girl and her family under considerable strain. He also wanted to offer the family's thanks to the minister for exercising his discretion.

Mr Stuart Randall, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, also welcomed the minister's decision. He added that the decision had been based on the genetic fingerprinting test and urged Mr Renton to "stop dragging his feet" and to start introducing these tests, which should be free of charge for poorer people.

Mr Renton said that he had the report on DNA, or genetic fingerprinting, in draft and was awaiting the approval of experts. The report would then be put in the Library of the House.

## Threat of jail over poll tax

### By Our Political Reporter

People who refuse to pay the poll tax ultimately face imprisonment, Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, said yesterday.

After pressure from the Rating and Valuation Association, he accepted the principle of an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill tabled by the Tory MP Mr Edward Leigh that would allow imprisonment as a last resort and only for those who wilfully refuse to pay. The Bill as drafted had no such provision, although offenders can at present be imprisoned for not paying rates.

Mr Howard will bring forward a Government amendment at the Bill's report stage.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, shadow local government minister, said that the introduction of possible imprisonment was a "thundering disgrace" and would enable people to opt for prison as a way of protesting against the tax.

## On reconciling the two Thatcherisms

If people want a sense of purpose, Harold Macmillan used to say, they should go to his biographers. It is, I suppose, only an extension of that view for Macmillan's successors to blame the biographers if people lack a sense of morality.

But why should Mrs Thatcher and her ministers suddenly be so concerned about the state of the nation's moral health? One should resist the temptation to be too cynical about this. Mrs Thatcher has never been a libertarian about standards of personal conduct, even if she has sometimes been surprisingly lenient about individual lapses.

There is, however, a perfectly good political reason why she should now wish to focus attention on moral values. Through-out her first two terms, as she has been reforming the British economy, she held the high ground of debate. She must want to do so still in the changed circumstances of her third term.

During her first eight years she managed to change the climate of public opinion on a range of interlocking issues — the need for competitive ef-



Geoffrey Smith

think much of it.

But in her third term she is putting the emphasis on a different and some ways a more difficult task. It is her social reforms that are now at the centre of controversy on the community charge, the education system and potentially the health service. She cannot win the high ground of debate on these questions by dwelling on the virtues of the enterprise culture.

So she needs to demonstrate that alongside her economic strategy she has a concept of social morality into which her social policies fit. If she fails to do that she is in danger of seeming harsh and insouciant. She would certainly be unable to change social attitudes as she has changed economic assumptions.

But is this current emphasis on morality consistent with Thatcherism as we have come to know it? In the past, ministerial speeches on social cohesion have often been regarded as a coded form of rebellion. That is clearly not the case now.

Mrs Thatcher herself has taken the initiative in opening a

dialogue with the bishops, and in both his recent speeches on the theme Mr Douglas Hurd has had a great deal to say about individual responsibility. That has been the essence of what might be termed economic Thatcherism as well: people should stand on their own feet.

If people are expected to take more responsibility for their economic prosperity, it is logically consistent that they should also be asked to take more responsibility for their social conduct. Yet if the two ideas are not in conflict, they do put the emphasis on very different aspects of behaviour.

The Thatcherite individual of the first two terms was expected to compete hard in the economic jungle and to maximize his economic rewards. In doing so he would benefit not only himself, but the country as well.

The Thatcherite individual of the third term is expected not only to observe conventional standards of personal morality, but also to give his neighbour a helping hand.

There is as well a tension, if not a contradiction, between Mr Hurd's emphasis on personal

responsibility and his remarks on social cohesion.

The most ardent Thatcherites have been wary of accepting that bad social conditions are to blame for a lack of social harmony. But in his comments on the inner cities Mr Hurd has acknowledged that there is a connection, even though he is careful not to suggest that the rise in crime can be explained by social circumstances.

I am not suggesting that social Thatcherism is incompatible with economic Thatcherism. Indeed, it may well be that economic Thatcherism would not be indefinitely acceptable to the British public unless there appeared to be a broader social dimension as well.

Nor do I believe that there is something essentially phoney about social Thatcherism. It was not only hard work and thrift that Mrs Thatcher had in mind when she espoused Victorian values. She probably believes that she knows better than the bishops how people in this country ought to behave. But she still has to convince them that she cares as deeply about social life as she does about economic prosperity.

## Pact allows Scots to have committee

### By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Government and Opposition business managers have finally hammered out a compromise that will enable an all-party Scottish affairs select committee to be established.

After prolonged behind-the-scenes negotiations between Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, and Mr Donald Dewar, leader of Labour's Scottish MPs, both sides have agreed to a committee on which the Tories will retain a majority by putting on two MPs from English constituencies as well as three Scots. Labour will have three members, including the chairman, and the Liberals one.

The three parties will put their nominations to the committee of selection next Wednesday. The Scottish Nationalists are likely to protest fiercely at their exclusion, but they will be overruled by a vote on the floor of the House.

The only possible stumbling block now is if the Tory whips are unable to find two MPs from English constituencies willing to serve. As the committee often

meets in Scotland, that is not inconceivable.

The agreement ends a controversy that has been boiling away since the general election eight months ago when Tory backbench representation in Scotland was reduced to just five.

Labour agreed to reduce the 13-member committee to 9 so that the Government could retain its majority, but the Government ran into embarrassing trouble when two of its backbenchers, Mr Bill Walker and Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, refused to serve on it.

Just before Christmas, it appeared as if the Government was ready to abandon the committee altogether when at the end of a Commons debate voted simply to note a report from the Committee of Selection saying that it had been unable to nominate a committee. Labour said that that showed "total contempt for the people of Scotland".



— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997, 278:1033-1037



# Rise in jail staff aims to end crisis

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A substantial increase in the number of prison officers in England and Wales was announced yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

He said that 1,360 additional prison officers are to be recruited in 1988-89 as well as others to replace wastage.

The Home Office believes that the expansion programme will help to resolve a continuing dispute with the Prison Officers' Association over manning levels and changes in working practices.

The increase is also timed to coincide with the opening of three new jails, accommodating some 1,500 prisoners, in the next few months.

It will bring the total establishment for prison officers in England and Wales to more than 20,000. The Home Office said the increase was probably the biggest yet.

The dispute with the Prison Officers' Association over changes in overtime and working practices has led to action in all prisons — ranging from refusal to fill in forms to refusal to accept new inmates.

There has also been discontent among officers at Brixton, which was raised

with Mr Hurd by Mrs Ann Taylor, the Labour MP for Dewsbury.

She asked him, before he made his announcement: "Do you take seriously the letter sent to you by the Brixton Prison Officers' Association warning that Brixton will burn to the ground and prison officers will be seriously injured or even killed unless you take urgent action to improve staffing levels?"

Mr Hurd replied: "I take seriously representations from Brixton and we are in close touch with the POA and their local branches in several London prisons".

Prisons due to open later this year are: The Mount Youth Custody Centre, on the border of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Swaleside Training Prison in Kent and Garth Training Prison in Lancashire.

Ports and airports have been put on the alert after two drug smugglers escaped from a prison in Devon.

The two men, one Dutch and one German, scaled a 17 foot high wall and then cut through the perimeter fence at Channings Wood prison near Newton Abbot.

# Perestroika's voice at the Reform Club

## Enter a hardliner, armed with one-liners

By Peter Stothard

The official spokesman of Soviet perestroika came to London's Reform Club yesterday, proclaimed himself very much "at home" there, then warned his audience that the East and West were "hostages to each other till the end of time".

Mr Gennady Gerasimov — US TV star of the Washington summit — once again belied his Western-cut suit and Western-trained manner by sharply accusing the Americans of dragging their feet at Geneva and likening last week's naval "provocation" in the Black Sea to the U2 incident which broke down the Paris Summit in 1960.

He confessed, however, that he was happier with the US Government now that Mr Weinberger had been replaced at the Pentagon. He said that Dr Waldheim should be assessed on his record at the UN where "during his Secretary Generalship he didn't send anyone to the gas chambers". And he promised that, after withdrawal from Afghanistan, there would be "no coming back" — whatever type of government came to power there.

The centrepiece of his exchange with a lunchtable of journalists, hosted by Independent Television News, was the state of East-West relations. The man who

speaks for Mr Gorbachev warned to his theme after two pints of the best bitter the Reform Club could provide.

He was scornful of Nato attempts to modernise its weaponry. "The man is dead", he said, "but the beard grows on for a few days. If we modernize it is only to keep up with Mrs Thatcher".

He attacked the Strategic Defence Initiative as "technologically impossible". "Counter-measures will be ten times cheaper. We object to it not because it makes our weapons obsolete but because nothing driven by technology can be sufficiently fail safe. In that sense, we are hostages to each other to the end of time."

He was waiting for the results of Mr Shultz's visit to Moscow before he could predict a date for the summit. He seemed to relish, however, a clash with Mrs Thatcher's visit to Poland at the end of May. Asked whether he felt Mr Shultz's more eloquent attitude to SDI truly represented the views of the US administration, he said he was much happier now that Mr Richard Perle had left and that Mr Weinberger had been replaced by Mr Carlucci.

"Mr Carlucci is on good speaking terms with our Defence Minister, Mr Yazov. The changes in Washington are very favourable from our point of view."

"The summit", he said, "would definitely take place unless there was something like the U2 incident". He attacked the recent clash between US and Soviet ships in the Black Sea as "unnecessarily provocative at this time".

What about opposition within the Soviet Union to a Strategic Arms deal, he was asked. "There was none", he claimed, adding (as though he were before an audience in an SS20 factory) that "those who had dedicated their lives to the development of those weapons would be moved to other jobs."

He was also asked about the Waldheim affair: did the Soviet Union regret having proposed Dr Waldheim to be Secretary General of the UN? "We don't discuss it much," he said. "It's history already. He was a good Secretary General of the United Nations. You must see him in relation to his time. He didn't send anyone to the gas chambers when he was at the UN."

Did he have any preference between President Bush or President Dole? "We are still preparing dossiers on them," he replied.

He had not been to Britain for more than a decade. Had he noticed any changes? "There had been no changes at Claridges", concluded Mr Gorbachev's master of the one-liner.



Gennady Gerasimov, the man from Moscow: "very much at home" after two pints of bitter.

# Closures warning on steel sell-off

By Kerry Gill

Privatization of the British Steel Corporation as a single entity would mean the closure of the Ravenscraig and Dalzell plants in Scotland, an independent report has concluded.

The study by Arthur Young, the international accountants and financial advisers, says the closures would cost the Scottish economy £100 million a year and cause up to 11,000 job losses.

The only way to save the plants, the report suggests, is for Ravenscraig, the Shotton plant in North Wales and Dalzell to be privatized as a separate group, and financed as a profitable venture by private investors.

According to the study, released yesterday, only by following the so-called RSD option could the Scottish steel industry hope to have a healthy and commercially viable future.

If BSC was privatized as a single unit, it would not be in its interests to keep Ravenscraig operating beyond 1991 nor Dalzell open after 1994.

Dr Jeremy Bray, Labour MP for Motherwell South, said the implications of the report were "extremely

serious" and the RSD option would be vigorously recommended to the Government.

"The RSD proposal is wholly in line with the Government's policy on privatization and competition", he said yesterday.

The present plan to privatize BSC in a single block was the "soft option" but by combining Ravenscraig, Shotton and Dalzell in a separate group to the rest of BSC both competition and profitability would be increased.

The scheme has also been welcomed by the Ravenscraig workforce as a way of saving the plant. Mr Tommy Brennan, shop stewards convenor, said the Government must give the RSD option serious consideration.

Closure of the plants would deliver a body blow to the economy of Lanarkshire and would have a knock-on effect throughout Scotland, he said.

The study also concludes that if Ravenscraig and Dalzell were closed, then other plants such as Clydebridge, Cambuslang, near Glasgow, and the Hunterston are terminal on the Ayrshire coast would also close.

# Schools may raise intake of infants

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

More schools may accept children under five as a result of the Education Reform Bill, even though they often lack suitable facilities, a conference organized by the National Foundation for Educational Research was told yesterday.

Miss Caroline Sharp, a researcher with the foundation, said a survey in 1986 had shown that many children aged four were being admitted to classrooms "which lack the staffing and resources to meet their social and education needs".

She said: "Heads competing for pupils, particularly in rural areas, tend to lower the admission age in order to encourage parents to send children to their school."

"It is probable that more schools in the future will react to the new, more competitive scene by lowering the age of admission to school."

That would particularly be the case in areas with few council-run play groups or nurseries.

Miss Sharp said that nation-

al tests at the age of seven will mean that teachers will be under increasing pressure to use a more formal curriculum for four year olds instead of "exploration" teaching methods involving play-based learning or theme work.

The foundation's research showed that most local authorities which admit pupils aged four to infant, primary or first schools each year were not providing the "nursery conditions" which were recommended recently by an all-party Select Committee. Of 56 authorities, only 10 had the recommended class sizes of 26 or fewer, and eight had full-time ancillary assistants for classes with pupils aged four. Only seven authorities allowed the young to go to school part-time.

● The Association of Christian Teachers warned today that religious education could be abused by left-wing authorities. In its journal the association criticizes the Bill for leaving religious education out of the national curriculum's foundation subjects.

# Government defeated on Lords dog scheme

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The House of Lords inflicted an embarrassing defeat on the Government last night requiring Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to consider bringing in a dog registration scheme to replace the licence.

Peers backed an all-party amendment with the support of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association, giving Mr Ridley the power to set up a scheme.

It was the Government's second defeat in a week, and

third in this session, in the House of Lords.

The Government came in for criticism for scrapping the 37p licence under the Local Government Bill without putting anything in its place.

Lord Hesketh, a government Whip, said the scheme would "lead us into an expensive and ineffective blind alley".

House of Lords sources said it was unlikely that the Government would try to throw out the amendment since it had the support of many Conservative and independent peers.

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# Rent subsidy for council tenants may be abolished

By David Walker

The Government is proposing to abolish the £477 million a year subsidy that councils pay to keep down the rents of their houses and flats with dramatic effects on the amount council tenants will have to pay.

The move, which will affect tenants in nearly 4.5 million properties throughout England, will be contained in a housing Bill to be introduced in the autumn. The Department of the Environment has indicated it would come into effect in April 1990, when the poll tax is first levied.

The new regime would have the effect of doubling council rents in inner-city areas, especially inner London, and is likely to act as an incentive for council tenants to opt out of local authority control under the Government's "pick a landlord" scheme.

The Bill will also have the effect of cutting rents, at least in certain districts in the South-east where in recent years rents have generated a surplus for councils which they have used to keep down rates. The Government is to forbid transfers between housing and general accounts.

Council rents in England average £17.20 a week. Ministers have been pressing for cuts in the subsidy from rates to rents paid by big city councils, pointing to the fact that council rents have been falling as a proportion of earnings and are now 7.7 per cent of average weekly earnings.

The Government wants to "ring fence" the accounts which councils must keep for their housing, and prevent either money coming in from rates or poll tax to help keep rents down, or money paid by council tenants being used to subsidize poll tax.

The effect in a London borough such as Camden will be dramatic, pushing average rents up to nearly £40 a week - 17 per cent of average weekly earnings.

In addition inner-city councils will lose out under the Government's rate support

grant system since their eligibility for support is calculated from the amount they pay in rent subsidy.

Mrs Rita Hale, of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said yesterday that under the Government's proposals, poll tax payers in inner London would not actually benefit from the reduction in subsidy to tenants.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities agrees with the Government that housing accounting needs to be reformed, but a spokesman said yesterday that councils should be given the freedom to make up their own minds about local circumstances.

One direct effect of the Government's move will be to push council rents up to the level of rents in the private rented sector.

Ministers are considering a proposal to offer council house tenants a lump sum as a deposit for a home in the private sector as a way of cutting long waiting lists.

They believe that a cash offer of up to £10,000 could drastically reduce council waiting lists and cut the costs of providing the homeless with bed and breakfast accommodation in hotels.

The Government is also anxious to clamp down on the widespread use by local councils of bed and breakfast accommodation which it is estimated will cost £104 million this year.

The average cost of keeping a family in hotel accommodation is £11,000 a year and as well as the expense, Ministers are concerned at the effects on young couples trying to bring up families.

Ministers argue that many of these families could be housed in council property if council tenants were encouraged to move into private housing with the offer of a lump sum.

There is strong opposition from the Treasury which fears the scheme would cost too much.

# Ravages of time threaten the Dales landscape



By Peter Davenport

The dry stone walls and field barns of the Yorkshire Dales, such as these at Keld, have for centuries been an integral part of a distinctive and unchanging landscape. Now they may be lost for ever unless more than £1 million can be raised, Mr Bill McIntyre fears.

Mr McIntyre (above), building conservation officer for the Yorkshire Dales national park, estimates that there are as many as 10,000 stone field barns in the 680 square

miles, each one serving three or four fields.

Some, such as those in an area known as Gammelside Bottoms, are in excellent condition and form an essential part of the scenery. He wants to see that quality repeated throughout the Dales.

There are countless miles of dry stone walls which simply could not be built economically today; in Swaledale alone it has been calculated that it would take 500 years for a gang of men, working 365 days

a year, to replace all the stone walling.

Mr McIntyre said: "My ambition is to preserve every barn and mile of wall in the Dales. It is not just important locally but it has national and international significance. This pattern of farming is unique."

Mr Richard Harvey, the national park officer, said: "We recognize that unless we can find an acceptable solution and make significant progress on it within the next five to 10 years, this distinctive landscape

may have gone beyond the point of no return."

The authority is to launch a scheme that will pay the farmers of the Dales to conserve the dry stone walls and field barns even if they are no longer using them.

Changes in farming methods have made redundant the original use of the barns, as places where cows would be fed and milked. The cost of repairing them in traditional materials has been too high for the upland farmers working on the narrow

margin between profit and loss.

English Heritage, which says the barns and walls are part of an historic landscape, has agreed to match any funding the Park can raise towards the scheme and it is hoped to have £100,000 a year available beginning in 1989. The scheme is expected to run for between 10 and 15 years.

Many of the barns, some of which are eighteenth century, have been stripped of their original slate roofs. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

# Amnesty calls for review of Broadwater Farm riot trials

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Amnesty International called on the Government yesterday to review trials held after the Broadwater Farm estate riot in north London in 1985 during which PC Keith Blacklock was murdered.

In a report, Amnesty claims most detained suspects, including juveniles, were denied access to lawyers and family during long

periods of interrogation. A boy aged 13 later charged with murder was questioned four times for a total of 15 hours, most of the time wearing only a blanket and his underpants.

The judge ruled the police had without reasonable cause refused him access to a lawyer and that "unreasonable and unjust burdens were put on the child". His admission was ruled unreliable and he was acquitted.

Amnesty says some detainees were tricked into signing documents waiving rights. A number claimed they signed statements under pressure, sometimes without being allowed to read them. Amnesty adds detainees consistently alleged they were threatened and forced to make admissions.

Many claimed they admitted to lesser charges under threat of being charged with murder. Some alleged that police threatened them with

prolonged detention, physical violence or the arrest of relatives and friends. Amnesty cannot establish the validity of the allegations but notes that in some cases judges vindicated them by ruling the statements unreliable.

Admissions formed the basis of prosecution evidence in many of the cases such as murder, riot and affray, the report adds.

Amnesty emphasizes its report is

concerned only to assess whether trials were fair. It cites a decision by the European Commission on Human Rights to support its view that such fairness may be affected by the infringement of detainees' rights in the pre-trial phase as well as during the court hearing.

Amnesty's report was sent to the Government last November. The next month, the Government said an internal investigation into complaints was "moving ahead".

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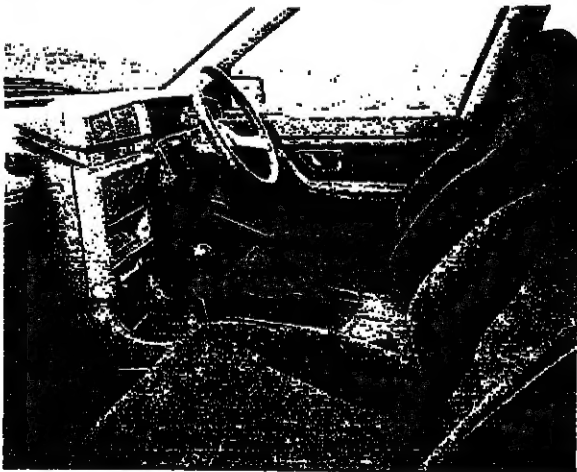
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WORLD ROUNDUP

# Howe to discuss Kabul coalition

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to hold talks today with a senior Pakistani official on demands for the creation of a coalition government in Afghanistan before Soviet troops withdraw (Andrew McEwen writes).

Mr Zain Noorani, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was due in London last night after meeting Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, in Washington on Wednesday. Mr Shultz will convey Islamabad's demand for the coalition government to Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, when they meet next week.

But Sir Geoffrey got the impression that the Kremlin was unwilling to discuss the subject when he was in Moscow on Monday and Tuesday. Whitehall sources said Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, refused to enlarge on the announcement that Soviet troops could begin pulling out on May 15 if agreement is reached at next month's Geneva talks.

Leading article, page 15

# Goria survives vote

Rome - The Italian Prime Minister, Signor Giovanni Goria, last night won a vote of confidence from Parliament that should allow him to pass essential financial legislation (A Correspondent writes). He is then expected to step down as negotiations for a new government resume. He resigned last week after being repeatedly out-voted in Parliament. But, because of the need to pass the overdue financial package, President Cossiga sent him back to Parliament so that the legislation could be approved before a fully-fledged government crisis developed.

# Worrall's Denial by Ethiopia

Johannesburg - Dr Denis Worrall, the former South African Ambassador to Britain, is to launch a new political party, provisionally called the Independent Party, which aspires to offer white voters a viable, workable and credible alternative to the Government of President Botha (Michael Hornsby writes).

Dr Worrall told *The Times* yesterday that the founding meeting of the new party would be held on March 17 in Somerset West, the main town of the Helderberg constituency in the western Cape. A national congress is planned in Durban later in the year. The new party hopes to gain a parliamentary seat through a merger with the Natal-based New Republic Party.

# Tibet tourist curfew

Peking (Reuters) - Police have imposed a night-time curfew on foreigners staying in Lhasa during Tibet's new year and religious festivals, tourists said yesterday. Official notices posted in budget hotels warned foreigners not to join in or take pictures of any disturbances, one Western tourist said.

The 10pm curfew began on Wednesday, the eve of Tibet's lunar new year, and will be in force until March 5 when the 12-day Great Prayer Festival ends. About 30 foreign tourists are staying in Lhasa.

# Car crash Envoy rejected

Rome - The tranquility of the Roman Catholic basilica in Scherpenheuvel has been shattered by a young man who crashed his car into the church's main altar (Michael Davies writes).

According to a witness, Henri Chénier, aged 22, was involved in a race with another car along the 100m road leading to the church. He then crashed through a glass door, set off a fire alarm, and half a dozen people before being brought to a halt by the communion rail. In addition to the structural damage caused by the accident, a number of valuable art objects were also severely damaged.

# The £86,000 camel

Muscat, Oman (AP) - A camel breeder has sold a champion camel to a United Arab Emirates racing enthusiast for a record \$75,000 (\$86,000), the *Oman Daily Observer* reports. The previous highest figure was 250,000 dirhams. The average price for racing camels ranges from 3,700 to 11,100 dirhams.

The breeder, Mr Saeed Malki, from a remote village near Ibbi in northern Oman, had turned the female thoroughbred into an unbeaten champion on the racing tracks. The buyer's identity was not disclosed.

# US rethink on military assignments in Lebanon

## Kidnappers to 'try American spy'

From Juan Carlos Guncacio in Beirut and Christopher Thomas in Washington

The United States is urgently examining its policy of allowing members of the armed forces to serve in Lebanon after the kidnapping of Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins on Wednesday, the ninth American to go missing there.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Brigades yesterday said it was responsible for the abduction. A man telephoned an international news agency in West Beirut to say that Colonel Higgins was "in the hands of the other Western hostages" and that he would be put on trial because he was a CIA spy.

It was impossible to determine the authenticity of the claim, which also suggested that Colonel Higgins had been smuggled out of southern Lebanon shortly after his abduction. The caller said that a statement and a picture of the hostage would be produced "soon".

A joint search in southern Lebanon by UN peacekeeping troops and the Shia Muslim Amal militia, who are combating hills and valleys east of Tyre with the help of UN helicopters, was hampered by rainstorms.

According to reports from Tyre, the search was concentrating in the narrow valley of Wadi Jilo, just south-east of Tyre, which falls within an area under the control of the Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian "party of god" which has become the prime suspect in the abduction.

President Reagan said the US was trying to find out where Colonel Higgins was to secure his release. But senior officials made clear that Mr Reagan was not talking about a military operation but referring to hopes that UN agencies could help.

The officer, known to friends as "Rich", had, according to Pentagon officials, "actively sought" his assignment to the post with the unnamed 76-member UN observer group he heads. He arrived in Lebanon in June on a one-year assignment.

His wife is also in the military. Marine Major Robin Higgins, a press officer at the Pentagon, was called out of a routine staff meeting by State

Department officials and told of her husband's disappearance. Her daughter, Chrissy, aged 17, was driven to the Pentagon by a family friend so that her mother could give her the news.

The family lives in Woodbridge, Virginia, in the Washington suburbs. Colonel Higgins sought his assignment to Lebanon after serving several years in the Washington area. He joined the Marine Corps in 1967 and served in the infantry in Vietnam.

He was awarded the Defence Superior Service medal and the Bronze Star, and also holds the Meritorious Service medal and two Navy commendation medals. He has served in various command positions, and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in January 1983.

His father, William Higgins, died of heart failure in a Louisville hospital yesterday, a day after the abduction.

State Department and Pentagon spokesmen insisted that the kidnapping had not sparked active discussion about removing the remaining 15 US members of the UN

truce supervision organization, but other officials indicated that the policy was being reassessed.

Mr Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman, said: "These people are not assigned as a national contingent. They are US officers assigned to this United Nations organization and, as such, they are under the authority and responsibility of that organization."

Thirty-six US military officers are assigned to UN observer groups throughout the Middle East, including the 16 in Lebanon. They are among 299 troops from 17 nations that participate in observer roles.

The State Department has recommended for the past several years that American civilians stay out of Lebanon. But the US has participated in the UN observer unit since 1948 and did not withdraw its members even after the 1983 bombing of the Beirut Marine barracks, in which 241 Marines and other US personnel died.

The observers' role is to patrol the Lebanese-Israeli

border in close cooperation with the United Nations Infantry Force in Lebanon. A Norwegian television correspondent who travelled with Colonel Higgins through southern Lebanon two weeks ago, told CBS news: "He was aware of the risk. He said: 'We can be kidnapped. We can be shot at. We can be robbed. But this is part of our daily life.'"



Colonel Higgins, photographed on duty, accepted the risks of his UN posting as "part of our daily life" in Lebanon. border in close cooperation with the United Nations Infantry Force in Lebanon. A Norwegian television correspondent who travelled with Colonel Higgins through southern Lebanon two weeks ago, told CBS news: "He was aware of the risk. He said: 'We can be kidnapped. We can be shot at. We can be robbed. But this is part of our daily life.'"

# Israeli rift on unrest widens

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

pace would be detrimental to the very essence of an agreement," he said. "We will explain our objections to an international conference to Mr Shultz and show that it would be counter-productive. It would allow the Soviet Union to play a role."

At the same time Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Foreign Minister, was telling the American-Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv that he supported most of the elements in Mr Shultz's plan.

He said he was willing to exchange some of the territories for "peace. Jerusalem would not be included. He said he would hand over all of Gaza because this was a demographic problem and not a geographical one.

If the American initiative failed, he said, this would leave the Arabs with no one to turn to but the Soviet Union.

Yesterday's violent incident occurred at Kabatia near Jenin, where troops used live ammunition to break up a demonstration. Three people were wounded and three others needed treatment for injuries received in beatings.

During the day it was announced that a Shin Bet counter-intelligence officer was to face criminal charges of negligence in the beating and killing of Awad Hamdan, an Arab from Tulkarim camp, nine months ago. Two other officers are to be charged with perjury.

While the official report claims he died in hospital of pneumonia, his family found his body had been severely beaten when they reclaimed it from the hospital where he was taken the day after being arrested at his home.

# Kinnock fury at camp 'hell'

From Philip Webster, Gaza

Mr Neil Kinnock widened his criticism of Israel yesterday by denouncing the living "hell" imposed on the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the harsh policing methods employed by troops to contain the uprising.

The Labour leader's tour of the Middle East erupted into fresh controversy as he challenged the Israeli Army to prove that it had not shot people in the back or used explosive bullets.

As he visited refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, Mr Kinnock spoke of the "start and appalling" difference between life there and the affluence so close in Israel. People were being effectively incarcerated in the areas, he said.

Last night he complained at a private meeting with Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Minister of Defence, about the policy of

beatings and shootings used by the troops. His anger had been heightened by a visit to another hospital in Gaza town, where he saw another injured Palestinian apparently shot in the back and young men whose bodies were blackened from beatings.

The Israeli Army yesterday denied it had shot people in the back or issued explosive bullets. But the Government has not reacted in public to Mr Kinnock's attacks - though Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, is expected to retaliate when he sees the Labour leader today.

Mr Kinnock emerged from Beach camp, under curfew for 22½ hours daily since last Friday, to say: "The intensive military presence, the jeeps carrying six to eight soldiers, the foot patrols, the curfew itself, the way, the streets are

stripped of people... it is a vast slum... it is hell."

At the Baptist Hospital in Gaza, Mr Kinnock and his wife again visited injured Palestinians. The most harrowing sight was a girl, aged five, named Yesmi. She had horrific scars on her shoulders and neck from two days ago when, it was said, troops burst into her home and sprayed around boiling water which had been on a stove.

Early yesterday, Mr Kinnock met Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister and Israeli Labour leader and an old friend. Mr Kinnock said afterwards they had agreed on a need for an international peace conference, "that the rule of one people over another people could not be permanent", that the occupied territories should be demilitarized, and that the state of Israel must have secure borders.

# Emaciated terrorists hit French conscience

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The arrested operators of a half-price cafeteria, which has carried badly into the dock for the latest series of Action Directe terrorism trials, have threatened to backfire on the French Government.

With all four of the accused approaching the end of their physical resumes after 90 days of a hunger strike, the possibility of a death during the proceedings can no longer be excluded.

The court has already witnessed the sight of Nathalie Ménigon, first of the accused to appear, stretched out on the floor of a waiting room with an emergency drip inserted into her emaciated arm. Regardless of their views on Action Directe's notably ruthless brand of urban terrorism, it seems likely that many French will find such distressing court scenes deeply distasteful.

Yet the Government of M Jacques Chirac appears determined to have Action Directe's leadership tried and, it hopes, jailed before the presidential election in April. Its evident conviction that there are important votes to be won on the law and order front perhaps explains the widely reported remarks of the Minister for Security, M Robert Pandraud. On Wednesday, when a seemingly comatose Ménigon was jailed for 12 years on a first series of charges, he told a convention in the National



Nathalie Ménigon: Now frail after 80-day hunger strike, to participate asked to be relieved from duty in order to take over her treatment. When the hearing got under way, the presiding magistrate ordered a microphone to be held to Ménigon's lips to catch anything that she may choose to say in her increasingly faint voice. A needle has been inserted in one of her arms to allow speedy connection to a waiting drip by the doctor sitting beside her in the dock. MADRID: An agreement will "very probably" be reached within one year between the Spanish Government and ETA to end the violence, a leading member of Popular Unity, the political wing of the Basque Separatist organization, claimed yesterday (Richard Wigg writes).

# Gore performs

From Charles Bremner, Beaumont, Texas

Day One in the race for Super Tuesday, and Senator Al Gore swoops into this little east Texas town on board his little white Lear jet and comes out with the quote from Davy Crockett: "The people of Tennessee can go to Hell, I'm going to Texas."

The sheriff beams at his deputy and the small crowd at Harrison County airport cheer as the young senator warms up his Southern patois.

"Y'all know I'm a labour man," he reassures Mr Eddy Champ, a victim of the layoffs in the devastated local oil industry. No wonder the Washington-bred and Harvard-educated Mr Gore was lampooned as "bilingual" in a Doonesbury cartoon this week.

The battle for Dixie is on with a vengeance, and Mr Gore is throwing his all into the 20-day sprint against Mr Michael Dukakis, Mr Richard Gephardt and the Rev Jesse Jackson for the favour of Democrats in the 19 Southern and border states which vote on March 8. Super Tuesday will choose a third of the delegates to the national convention.

Mr Gore's campaign gained momentum yesterday when *The New Republic*, the 74-

# his DavyCrockett act for Dixie

in a pod," he repeats at each stop of his airborne jaunt around the rim of the Gulf of Mexico, with two other Lear jets of staff, consultants, secret servicemen and reporters in tow.

If looks count, Mr Gore is ahead with the women's vote. "What a hunk, wow," blurted one secretary at a factory in the Louisiana town of Shreveport as the boy-candidate swept through in his immaculate blue suit.

But Mr Gore's youth is also an obstacle. If nominated he would be his party's youngest candidate this century. He is the first post-war child to aim for the presidency. This may be the moment, he hopes, for the country to opt for the energy of youth, just as it chose the young John Kennedy after the elderly Dwight

Eisenhower. He freely admits to having smoked marijuana. He volunteered for Vietnam in 1969 and he worked as a reporter on a local newspaper before entering Congress in 1977.

He was young enough to sit on the lap of the then Vice-President, Richard Nixon, in the 1950s, a privilege earned through his father's rank as a long-serving Tennessee senator.

Mr Gore was groomed for public office from childhood, when he grew up on Embassy Row in Washington. It is this elite background that he is trying to combat with his "down home" language and depiction of himself as a good old Tennessee farmer and Vietnam veteran.

Mr Gore and his blonde wife Tipper - famous in her

# Producer's battle to film Pu Yi

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The *Last Emperor*, the film about Pu Yi, the last imperial ruler of China, which this week picked up nine Oscar nominations and has been chosen by the Prince's Trust for Thursday's royal premiere, was turned down by every leading Hollywood studio, says the picture's London-based producer, Jeremy Thomas.

Thomas, the low-key producer of the Bernardo Bertolucci film that stars John Lone as the Emperor and Peter O'Toole as his English tutor, yesterday said that the leading studios liked the story, "but they all said it didn't have any big stars in it and they couldn't see us making a picture of such epic proportions for only \$25 million (£14 million)."

As a result, Thomas spent four years getting the picture made - and that included scraping together the \$25 million through a consortium of five European banks headed by Hill Samuel and Company.

Thomas is delighted with the nominations and reports that the picture has taken more than \$80 million in the US. Columbia Pictures now plans to open the film in more US cinemas this week.

For Thomas, however, it struggle to get the film made was a constant uphill battle.

He said that because there was no big studio backing, "more than one occasion woke up sweating at it thought that so much money was riding on the picture."

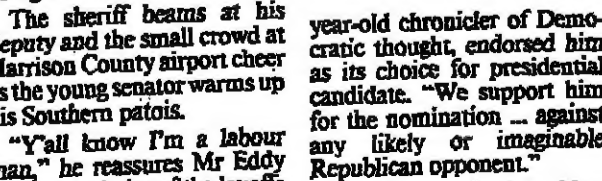
"We were the first company to shoot a film of this size China, shooting in it Forbidden City in Peking the summer of 1986 using 19,000 extras for more than six months. And we had it riding on a simple two-and-half page contract that read 'in the spirit of friendship collaboration'."

"The nominations are a affirmation that intelligence and epic cinema is wanted as needed by audiences and a lot of people in America have gone to see it because of that he said."

# Babbitt takes his exit with dignity

Washington - With the grace, good humour and dignity that marked his long-shot presidential campaign, Mr Bruce Babbitt, the former Governor of Arizona, yesterday withdrew from the Democratic race, but said the cause of candour in politics would continue (Michael Binyon writes).

Referring to the many occasions people left their seats to "stand up" for truth-telling, he said: "I stood up for what I believed in, and they stood up for me. That's what this year has been about. Because a campaign is more than a candidate and a cause is more than a campaign."



year-old chronicler of Democratic thought, endorsed him as its choice for presidential candidate. "We support him for the nomination... against any likely or imaginable Republican opponent."

Referring to the New Hampshire primary the 39-year-old senator says: "You can throw those results out of the window. The main event starts now."

Mr Gore, self-assured and with the polished good looks of the yuppie era, has challenged the rules by boycotting Iowa and New Hampshire to hold his fire for his Southern home turf.

With no clear winners from the politicking up North, Mr Gore hopes that through a blanket campaign in the heavily Democratic South that he can set himself apart from the pack. The polls are confusing, but he is up with the other three.

"The others are all just peas

JEOT 405



# Soviet elite lines up in style to sidestep ban on luxury

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

Not even the residents of Moscow, the world capital of queues, have seen anything like the daily scenes on Astrakhan Street, where more than 30,000 citizens are scrambling to buy imported electrical goods before the special-coupon *Berizhka* shop there closes by government decree on July 1.

In order to regulate what has become the ultimate Soviet queue — and as damning an indictment of the system as could be imagined — every hundredth person on the waiting list has been put in charge of his or her group of 100, who have to report two or three times every 24 hours to hold their place in the line.

As sub-zero winds yesterday blew gusts of snow from surrounding rooftops, the street — now closed at either end by militiamen with crash barriers — presented a bizarre sight. At various points, people holding up cardboard placards with numbers on were gathered as rollcalls were held and latecomers tried to secure a position.

The would-be shoppers are all possessors of the prized "B" coupons, issued to Soviet citizens who work abroad, which give them access to the privileged shops — a system greatly resented by ordinary citizens unable to buy the luxury goods. In recent years, the coupons have been heavily traded on the black market, where

they now command five times their face value.

The "Astrakhan queue" has begun in the last few days to attract Soviet swindlers of every variety (as well as prostitutes) — black marketeers who are selling vodka at 20 roubles (£20) a bottle, and enterprising businessmen purveying fast food to those who may have to wait up to 20 days until they can enter the store.

Local car-owners are also getting in the act, charging 20 roubles and more for an overnight seat in their heated vehicles.

During a brief visit, I was twice approached by shady dealers offering me black-market rates for coupons I did not possess. Temperatures were frayed and one man

trying to secure re-entry with a faulty Japanese video recorder, was literally beaten back by the self-appointed volunteers who were in charge of his queue.

The number plates on the cars jamming the surrounding streets revealed that citizens had come from all parts of the Soviet Union for what many fear is their last opportunity to buy a foreign television or tape recorder. Some unseasoned tourists also confirmed reports that others have returned home prematurely from abroad to secure their place in the queue.

The daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* reported: "The only ones who can get into the store without waiting in line are people with

Hero of the Soviet Union awards. Those who did their internationalist duty in Afghanistan are allowed into the TV section one at a time after every twentieth person, and into the tape recorder section after every 10th person."

The newspaper's reporter, Mr. Emin Bazilyan, added: "Some people spend the night in their heated cars, listening to music and drinking coffee. Others, wearing felt boots and wrapped up in blankets, sleep in the entrances of nearby apartment houses where they eat breakfast, lunch and sometimes do things one should not do in public. I saw myself how a janitor, his nose puckered up in disgust, was carrying a full bucket out of one entrance."

The newspaper described the iron discipline which predominates in the queue. "Some individuals may have miraculously slipped through the line and into the store. They might even make their purchase and get to the exit with it, but the minute they walk out their luck changes."

"The very same line that was deceived confiscates their purchase, gives the agile customer B-coupons in return and sends him packing, empty-handed, to peals of laughter."

Because of the sudden rise in demand for televisions and other foreign electrical equipment, prices in Moscow's secondhand stores and on the thriving black

market have been pushed up to new limits. A Panasonic TV selling for the equivalent of £1,350 in the Astrakhan Street *Berizhka* now sells outside for the equivalent of £4,000.

The official media have claimed wide support from their postbags for the order to shut this and other B-coupon shops, with most citizens glad to see the end of a system that was a magnet for corruption and penalized the majority who work within the country.

"Why should they have the right to buy foreign goods? I am not a bit sorry for them," said a middle-aged Muscovite who observed yesterday's shivering and ill-tempered queue.

## Kremlin warning to Nato

# Gorbachov attacks Europeans on plan to update deterrent

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday launched a strong attack on what he alleged were stepped-up militaristic activities by Nato and called for an intensification of Soviet foreign policy propaganda.

In the foreign policy section of a marathon address to the Communist Party's Central Committee, the Soviet leader said the recent signing of the INF pact was no cause for complacency.

"The militaristic activities in the European part of Nato have been noticeably invigorated. They are in a hurry to arrange for 'compensation' for the missiles to be eliminated under the treaty," he claimed. "They are planning a modernization and a build-up of 'other' types of nuclear weapons, especially at sea and in the air, cynically claiming that the latter are not covered by the treaty."

Mr Gorbachov went on to direct his anger against the British and French independent nuclear deterrents and to make what were seen by diplomats as a series of thinly veiled criticisms of recent remarks by Mrs Thatcher.

Members of the Central Committee were told that statements of approval for the INF treaty had been accompanied by declarations that Britain and France intended to build up their nuclear weapons. "It is precisely after the signing of the treaty that the Nato states demonstrate enhanced activity in the field of bilateral and multilateral military integration," he said.

He added that a "consolidation of reactionary, extreme anti-Soviet forces" was under way in the wake of the signing of the treaty last December. In a reference to Western European leaders, including Mrs Thatcher, Mr Gorbachov complained: "Positive pronouncements by high-ranking figures about our *perestroika* gain alternate with talk about communist expansion and

warnings that one should not forget 'who one is dealing with', and that since the present Soviet leadership is not going to change its system, its 'diplomacy of smiles' arouses suspicion."

The Soviet leader, again without naming names, went on to accuse Western radio stations of spreading "provocative inventions" about a leadership struggle in the Kremlin and the emergence of a domestic opposition in the Soviet Union to *perestroika* and the Kremlin's new foreign policy.

"They wish to sow uncertainty, disbelief in the possibility of achieving the

Up to 40 Lithuanians were arrested by police during demonstrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Baltic state's independence declaration, according to Soviet and dissident reports yesterday. (Nicholas Beeson writes.)

The republic's Interior Minister said 32 people were held and later released for "anti-social and hooligan actions". The Lithuanian Information Centre in New York said 40 people were arrested in Kaunas when thousands of Lithuanians attended a nationalist church service.

aims set by the party. These centres of anti-socialist provocation are engaged in such activities not only towards the Soviet Union," he added, alleging that similar Western "subversive activities were being aimed at the reform programmes under way in other Soviet bloc states."

The speech was much harsher in tone and less conciliatory to the West than many delivered by Mr Gorbachov in recent months. Analysts here saw it as signalling a hardening of the Kremlin line in the run-up to the 1988 Moscow superpower summit.

Signs of this harder attitude

were apparent when Mr Gorbachov met Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, on Tuesday and delivered a number of criticisms of the West in a conversation described by one British official as "having no holds barred."

Yesterday the Soviet leader called on the Communist Party to step up the work of its international ideological and propaganda departments in order to frustrate those in the West whom he labelled as "reactionaries". These people were trying "to stop the disarmament train, which is picking up speed."

Explaining the Soviet Union's "new thinking" on relations with the West, Mr Gorbachov told the meeting: "Establishing normal business relations with the states of the opposing system shakes, in addition to other things, anti-Sovietism and, therefore, anti-communism, thus weakening the reactionaries' pressure on democratic gains and aspirations."

Referring to Afghanistan, Mr Gorbachov traced the Kremlin's newly declared determination to withdraw its troops back to a Politburo study of the situation made a month after he came to power. In March, 1985, it had then "made an exacting, straightforward analysis of the situation and already then started looking for a way out of it."

He said that the opportunity had only appeared late in 1986, when President Najibullah had come to the forefront of the political stage in Kabul at the head of what he described as truly national forces.

Referring to his statement of February 8 which named May 15 as the putative date for the pull-out, Mr Gorbachov said that it confronted "with new realities those who further intend to exploit the Afghan problem to their selfish ends."

two former military officers and a former corporal. Of those facing the death penalty, Mr Khaled Nasser is the only one at large except for one other man, an air force officer, who was arrested but then ordered released by the courts, Mr el-Guindi said. All of the other nine defendants, except Dr Gamal Nasser, were arrested and then released. Mr el-Guindi said they would be arrested again.

The financing came from abroad but its origin was not yet known, he added.

The indictment alleged that Mr Khaled Nasser, aged 38, formed Egypt's Revolution with Mr Mahmoud Nour el-Din el-Sayed Ali Suliman, aged 47, a former administrative employee at the Egyptian Embassy in London and Mr Ahmed Essam el-Din el-Sayed Ali Suliman.

Mr el-Guindi said Interpol would be asked to help in bringing Mr Khaled Nasser back to Egypt. Neither Yugoslavia nor Britain has an extradition treaty with Egypt.



Mr Khaled Nasser: Believed to be living in Yugoslavia.

## Cairo indicts son of Nasser

Jahra (AP) — The eldest son and a nephew of the late President Nasser are among 10 people indicted in connection with four attacks on US and Israeli diplomats in Cairo, for Mohammed el-Guindi, Egyptian Prosecutor-General, announced yesterday.

Mr el-Guindi said he was seeking death penalties for 11 defendants, including Mr Jaled Abdel Nasser, the eldest son of the late President. He said he wants prison sentences up to life for the other nine, among them Nasser's nephew, Dr Gamal hawky Abdel Nasser.

Both men live outside Egypt. Family members said Mr Khaled Nasser lives with his wife and children in Yugoslavia and Dr Gamal Nasser lives in London.

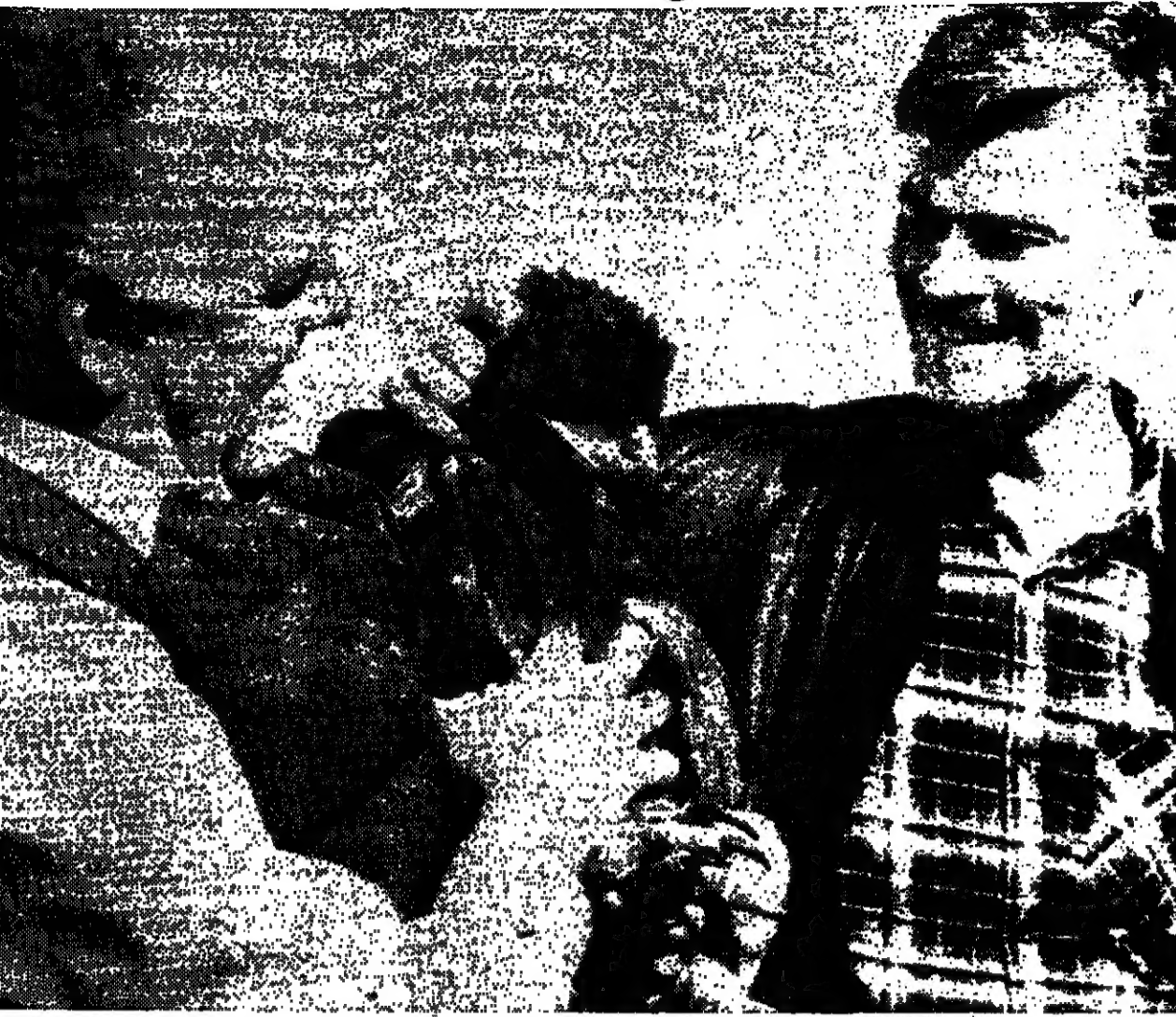
The indictment accused the 11 defendants of forming a group called Egypt's Revolution to assassinate foreign diplomats, aiming to disrupt relations between Egypt and several countries and to destabilize security in Egypt.

The indictment also charged the 11 with murder and attempted murder in the attacks, which occurred once a year from 1984 until 1987. Two Israelis died and six Israelis and two Americans were wounded in the attacks, alleged to have been carried out by gunmen in cars.

The nine defendants for whom lesser penalties are being asked were accused of complicity in the alleged conspiracies.

The defendants also include

## Return to wild for bald eagle found in Ireland



Mr John Swedberg, left, the eagle project leader for the Massachusetts fisheries and wildlife division, holding Lolur, a bald eagle, before release into the wild at Quabbin Reservoir, 75 miles west of Boston. The bird was flown to the US on an Aer Lingus plane last December after it had been found near Killarney, Ireland, during November by Mr Pat O'Connell, right.

## Five held for Thai tour deaths

Bangkok (AFP) — Police in northern Thailand said yesterday they had arrested five hill tribesmen for the murder last week of a British tourist and the captain of a riverboat.

They said the men shot dead Mrs Jill Davis, aged 59, of Kent, and the captain after he ignored their demand to steer the boat ashore. Two other Britons, Mrs Sylvia Crozier, 48, of Sunderland, and Mrs Hazel Sheldon, 58, of Somerset, are recovering from gunshot wounds.

## Libel win

Georgetown (Reuter) — The Guyana Court of Appeal ordered the *Catholic Standard* and its editor to pay \$5,000 to President Hoyte for two libellous articles, one of which accused his party of fraudulently obtaining a UN grant.

## Digging in

Sydney — Work will begin next week on a \$160 million tunnel to ease traffic congestion on the "Old Conagher", the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

## Cruelty law

Madrid — Cruelty to animals will now bring fines reaching a maximum of £12,500 under a law passed by the regional Parliament of Catalonia.

## Death appeal

Salemsika (AP) — A Briton, Philip Portington, aged 37, has appealed against a death sentence for the 1985 murder of a British tourist at a campsite in northern Greece.

## Clean Seine

Paris (Reuter) — Thousands of fish have been put into the Seine, once a thick flow of poisonous sludge and debris, to mark its return to cleanliness.

## The 'Ivan the Terrible' case

# Identity evidence arrives too late as trial ends in uproar

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The trial of John Demjanjuk, the alleged "Ivan the Terrible" of the Treblinka death camp, ended in uproar yesterday as his family walked out of court accusing prosecution lawyers of lying.

Minutes before the end of the year-long trial Mr Yoram Shefiel, the senior defence counsel, revealed that he had obtained only three weeks' earlier a sworn statement by a former death camp guard saying that Mr Demjanjuk had never been in Treblinka.

The evidence arrived too late for submission and was not in an acceptable form for the court, but the defence still hopes to prove conclusively that the entire case is nothing but a Soviet plot to discredit the Ukrainian people.

The final session was interrupted twice — first by a Holocaust survivor who said his family died in Treblinka, and then by the three members of Mr Demjanjuk's family present, who walked out shouting "liars" at the prosecution lawyers.

The day began with an apology from Mr Paul Chumak, QC, the Canadian defence lawyer who stunned the court on Wednesday by comparing the case to the Dreyfus affair.

In withdrawing this "unhesitatingly", he said he had meant only to make a comparison between French anti-Semitism, which led to the conviction of Dreyfus, and Soviet "anti-Ukrainianism", which had created a plot designed to convict the defendant.

The plot had not succeeded, he said, and there was reasonable doubt that the defendant

was the mass executioner "Ivan the Terrible".

"The verdict must be founded on the evidence and must stand the test of time, so that in five, 10 or 50 years it shall be said 'Justice was done in Jerusalem. Demjanjuk was acquitted according to the law.'"

As the court was about to start a brief recess, Mr Mordechai Fuchs, a Holocaust survivor who has often been in the audience during the trial, produced a framed photograph of his family taken 60 years ago in Warsaw. All of them died in Treblinka; he escaped by jumping from the train carrying him to the death camp.

"I was among the dead, but I am here in court today," he shouted. "The Ukrainians took every man, woman and child and murdered them in cold blood. I want everyone to know what the Ukrainians did. I am not able to keep quiet any longer."

Mr John Gill, the third defence counsel, went painstakingly through evidence which questioned the authenticity of the key prosecution exhibit, a death camp guard's SS identity card in the name of Ivan Demjanjuk. Even the ink colours, he suggested, proved the card was a forgery.

"We have in fact destroyed the case in so many ways that it is impossible for them to reconstruct it at this juncture," he said. "We don't have the burden of proof. We just have the burden of showing that the prosecution has not proved its case."

The court refused Mr Demjanjuk permission to speak at the end. Throughout the hearing, he listened in his

interpreter's headset, making copious notes. His family was much more agitated.

When Mr Michael Shaked, for the prosecution, refuted defence accusations that Israel had not co-operated in gathering the necessary evidence, the family walked out.

"You are lying," the defendant's son, John, shouted, and his sister and mother followed him out of the court, shouting.

They did not hear Mr Shefiel claim that it had not been possible until three weeks before to obtain from the American Office of Special Investigations a statement by a death camp guard, called Daniel Chenko, who claimed to have served at Sobibor camp with the defendant when he was supposed to have been the executioner at Treblinka.

Mr Shefiel said the prosecution could have obtained the document much earlier, but had failed to do so because it did not tally with their case. He refused to withdraw his remarks even when Judge Dov Levin urged him "not to go away with all this bitterness".

The defendant's son was very bitter. "It was a fitting end to the prosecution that they should lie to the end," he said afterwards.

He said the defence would produce many witnesses to prove his father was neither in Sobibor nor Treblinka. "The rest of the world is going to be the judge of what is happening in Jerusalem," he said. "The case is not going to end when the judges reach their verdict. It is going to continue until we say it is over."

The judges hope to reach a verdict within six weeks.

## Hunt in hills for Basque diehard

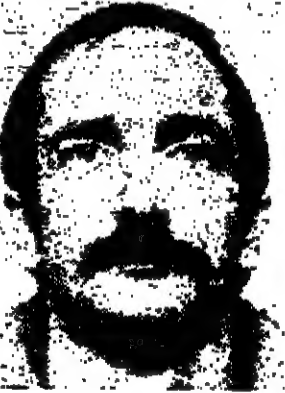
From Philip Jacobson  
St Etienne-de-Baigorry

As one of the biggest manhunts mounted in the French Basque region closes in on Philippe Bidart, the people of this little mountain village await the worst. Although Bidart is accused of killing four French policemen since he went on the run in 1982, he remains an almost mythical figure in the community where he was born and bred.

Bidart, aged 35, a former theology student and founder of the "Iparratarak" movement to serve the cause of Basque separatism on the French side of the border, is now practically the only survivor of his original group still at large. In the past 18 months he has seen several close comrades buried and many others, including his two brothers, brought before the courts.

Yet Iparratarak — it means "Those of the North" in the Basque tongue spoken almost everywhere in this region — was never conceived as the French equivalent of Eta, the much larger and more cohesive Basque separatist organization fighting Spanish rule. Even local police officials concede that Bidart and his followers did not set out to kill but were caught up in a spiral of violence which gradually engulfed them.

The videotape of a bank robbery in 1981 first put Philippe Bidart on the wanted list. Then he was linked to bomb attacks on public buildings in the Basque country. Early in 1982, in the course of



Bidart: An almost mythical figure to French Basques.

what appears to have been a bungled kidnapping attempt, two members of the CRS paramilitary force were shot dead by a group led by Bidart, who was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia.

There was no going back after that. Bidart's photograph was displayed in every French police station. A year later, surprised in the act of collecting a cache of stolen weapons, he shot his way out, killing one gendarme and severely wounding another.

Although these bloody events undoubtedly undermined Iparratarak's support in the French Basque heartland, Bidart was still seen by many as a patriot fighting for a just cause. The daring raid he led to free two followers from the top security prison at Pau at the end of 1986 did nothing to harm that image.

Within a few months, however, Bidart has killed again, the victim a gendarme manning a routine security check near a popular tourist beach in the Landes region. That murder seems to have marked the final turning point for Iparratarak. With Eta, the "big brothers", putting out peace feelers to the Spanish Government, the group has been effectively marginalized.

Today, even diehard French Basque nationalists accept that the movement is on its last legs. In the past Bidart could visit St Etienne-de-Baigorry quite openly, sometimes attending funerals of militants.

"It's a bit like Corsica around here," observed one villager who grew up with Bidart. Whatever their views, nobody ever talked to the police.

But by driving Bidart ever deeper into the Pyrenees, the authorities clearly hope to cut him off altogether from his last source of support.

"Of course, he knows this terrain like the back of his hand," said a senior police officer with a wave at the soaring mountains. "But nobody can run forever up there, and we are in no hurry."

## Mission to uncover Waldheim name becomes costly paper chase

By Robert Fisk

International paper chase for out of Dr Kurt Waldheim's alleged involvement in the Second World War is turning into a costly odyssey for dozens of historians, analysts, and television researchers, sifting through tens of thousands of wartime documents in archives at Rome, Berlin, Athens and elsewhere.

At least two British television companies are employing full-time researchers to read the incomplete volumes of files of the Italian "Asteria" division which — according to American investigators — raised over the deportations of more than 400 Yugoslavians in May, 1942, with the man military office in which Waldheim then worked. But neither in the military ar-

chives in Rome nor in the more untidy files of the Greek Government have scholars or journalists yet unearthed the Austrian President's name, nor even the familiar handwritten letter "W" with which he often signed his intelligence reports.

Mr Jonathan Steinberg, who read through the "Asteria" war diaries for his own research on Italian military assistance to Jews during the Occupation, says that he did not find a single reference to Dr Waldheim's name in the records. There was no "smoking gun" there, he said.

American officials from the Office of Special Investigations in Washington have drawn much the same conclusion and regard the best proof against Dr Waldheim as being the "guilt by association" which is evident from captured German documents. The latest of

these to be unearthed from the National Archives in Washington specifically relate to liaison with the Italian unit but, once again, Dr Waldheim's name does not appear in the papers.

Not only are there tens of thousands of documents in the European archives which are still unsorted, particularly in Yugoslavia and Greece — but those wartime records which might prove most incriminating were drawn up by army officers who by mid-1943 were in retreat.

The Italian Fascist regime, for example, was breaking apart by the end of 1942 and, as one scholar said, "The Italians scarcely had enough petrol to drive their occupation troops out of Yugoslavia, let alone take their files with them."

The Germans left some of their records behind when they retreated out of Bosnia and then Zagreb in 1945. The documents they took

with them either ended up in the post-war bunkers of the Berlin Document Centre — from which 80,000 papers have recently disappeared — or were destroyed in the army's humiliating retreat into what is now Austria.

The passage of time has not served historians well. Wehrmacht documents which survived the war were sometimes photographed and then photocopied and re-photocopied so many times that, when the original papers were lost, they were almost impossible to read. A copy of one German paper apparently bearing Dr Waldheim's "W" initial and completed in the spring of 1942 was shown to me by a Jewish researcher in Paris, who said: "Get back at the handwriting. Can anyone really say that this is Waldheim's? His actual name does not even appear on the typed document."

Further confusion has been sown among researchers by apparent discrepancies in the original dossier against Dr Waldheim compiled by the World Jewish Congress in New York. Most of their references to the Austrian President are undoubtedly accurate. But one quoted report referring to Dr Waldheim's archives at Santa Luka in Yugoslavia but the corresponding files, which complete the original numbered series, can be found in the archives of the Military History Institute in Belgrade.

No one on the Waldheim trail, however, has yet succeeded in gaining access to the archives of the Interior Ministries of those Western countries which were occupied by the Germans. This includes the Yugoslav Ministry of Interior where, so some believe, wartime documents were forged.

The one archive to which neither US investigators nor Western journalists have yet gained access — which may well contain documentary evidence of Dr Waldheim's activity in the Balkans — is in the Albanian capital of Tirana.

Those scholars who have labor-

ously read through the archives of the Yugoslav Government report that while some of the files are in disorder, there is remarkably little evidence of any official "weeding". Some documents relating to the Croatian Ustasha militia, which worked with the Kampfgruppe West Bosnien in which Dr Waldheim served, are incomplete in the archives at Santa Luka in Yugoslavia but the corresponding files, which complete the original numbered series, can be found in the archives of the Military History Institute in Belgrade.

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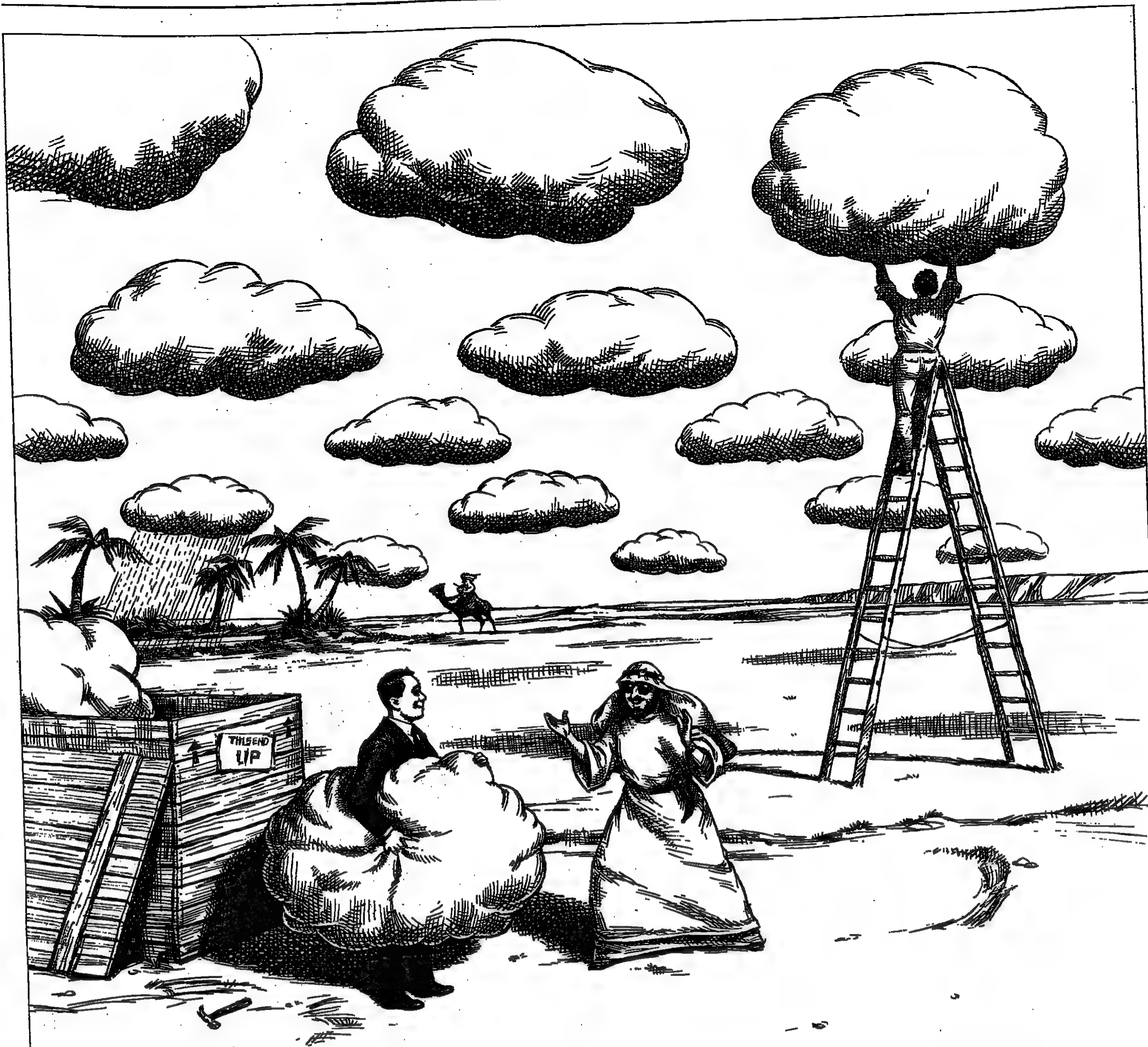


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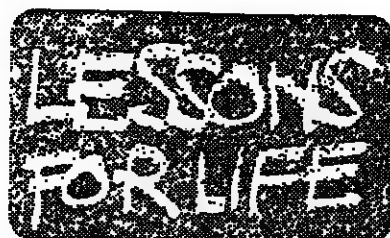
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## SPECTRUM

## Oh my Bunter of long ago



The reading bug is the greatest gift you can give your children, opening as it does the door to the

delights and wisdom of the centuries. *The Times* asked a panel of experts to compile a list of the books every child should read and Philip Howard casts an eye over their choice, remembering his own favourites

Show me what a child reads, and I will tell you what she or he is going to grow up as. Of course, this is not a wholly accurate prediction. But it has as much truth in it as greedy-gutsy Brillat-Savarin saying, "Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are," and Lenin, Jesus, and other zealots saying, "Give us a child for eight years and it will be a Bolshevik (Roman Catholic) for ever."

Men and women have become great while being illiterate, and successful without spending much at the book-sellers. Socrates and J. Christ are unfair examples, because they lived in a generally preliterate age. But Edison and Henry Ford, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher have done all right without being in the least bookish. Winge-stein's only reading outside philosophy was trashy American third-and-blunder thrillers. Nevertheless, most of the wisdom and knowledge in the world is contained in books.

In one life there is not time to read even one hundred-thousandth of the books published. It makes a great difference to the development and success (and happiness) of a child which books in the boundless jungles of print he or she reads. The recommended book list compiled by *The Times* panel seems to me judicious and imaginative, as we should expect from such a noble team of the bookish and clever who are lucky enough to spend their lives with the young. Some of them I have not read. I must get *Stig of the Dump* at once, if only for its title.

It seems to me inconceivable that the Bible and Shake-

peare do not appear on our lists, but perhaps they were taken as read.

The Rev H.M.S. Taylor drilled me as a very small boy into familiarity with the bloodier parts of the Old Testament, with particular emphasis on what were then called the Minor Prophets. At Private Business, Mr Tutor Francis Cruse had his study full of boys aged between 12 and 16 reading Shakespeare. I shall never get a chance to play

*They sing telly jingles instead of nursery rhymes. I feel chilly and grown old*

Desdemona again, but I am glad to have had the opportunity.

The list seems to me short of humour: my brother remembers my keeping him awake and laughing myself to sleep over the Mulliner stories of Wodehouse.

Any list is going to be deficient. That is what making a selection means. But gosh, no *Tanglewood Tales*, no Kingsley's *The Heroes*, no *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb, no Bullfinch's *Myths of Greece and Rome*. Where do our young get their ancestral stories from? Wot no Hans

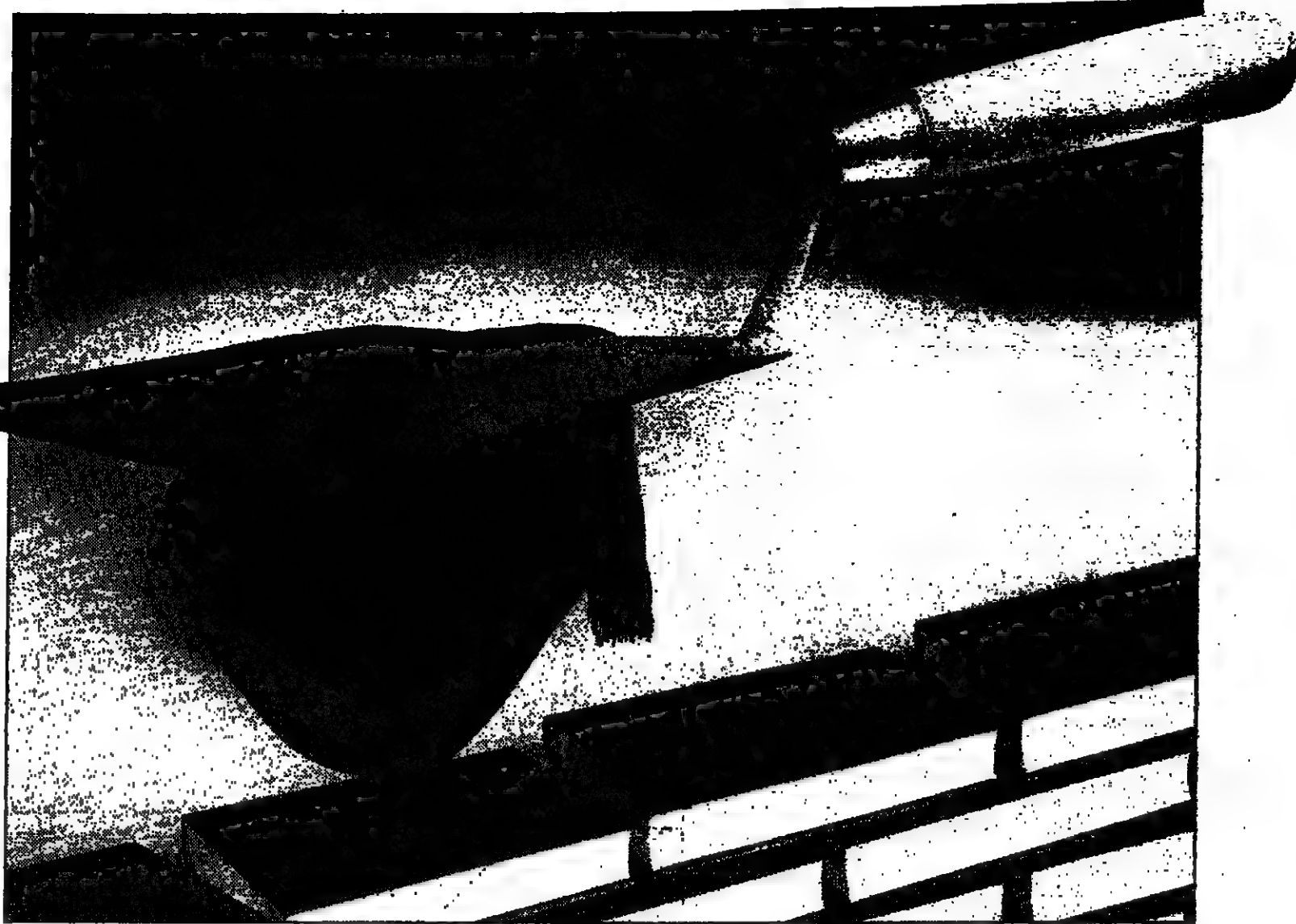
Andersen or Brothers Grimm? They sing telly jingles instead of nursery rhymes. I feel chilly and grown old.

The books that you read for pleasure, hating to put down for meals, rushing to pick up afterwards, are the ones that stay with you. The first thing that I remember reading was a leader in the *Daily Express*. I had demonstrated to my father that I could read, and he thought I might be cheating by having learnt the 'kiddies' book by heart, so he tested me with the *Express*. But I soon moved on to more intelligent reading, such as Beatrix Potter.

In those days, Best Beloved, you either read *Just William* or *Swallows and Amazons*, who were considered nicer. Some of us liked both, but if it came to the barricades we would always have ended up on William's side.

We were fed with stories about boarding school, such as *The Fifth Form at St Dominic's*, to indoctrinate us that it was natural and fun to be banished from home. I always preferred Angela Brazil, and when I was first sent away at a very early age to board at Culford I ran away in the bus with the day-girls, causing the whole school to spend the evening searching the grounds, and some unpopularity when I was dragged back.

I cannot imagine being homesick again and not having *Bevis*, the *Story of a Boy* to read as a talisman. But our team are spot on with *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as a sovereign remedy for homesickness. I am sorry there are no *Malheurs de Sophie*.



## THE TIMES 50: BOOKS CHILDREN SHOULD READ

Do you remember the endless boredom of wet afternoons, when the grown-ups were busy, and there was no television? We had to read to survive, not just "good" books, but Bunter, and Arthur Mee's *Children's Encyclopedia*, and even *Great Trials of the Twentieth Century* if nobody was looking.

Life is OK, but give me a good book every time. The reading bug is the best thing you can give your children, not because it will help them pass exams, and make them successful, though it may, but because it is one of the great consolations and pleasures of living.

It opens the door to the delights and wisdom of the centuries. *The Times* book list is an admirable guide, not a map, to that magic garden with many lawns, and flowerbeds, and follies, and greenhouses.

"Barchester Towers! Dotheboys Hall! It just confirms my general view: people don't read!" Lord Beloff's cry of distress on hearing how poorly our sixth-form guinea-pigs had fared on the literary questions in *The Times 100* test which we published on Tuesday, would be echoed by many observers of education. Only 14 per cent and 4 per cent respectively recognized allusions to even television-serialized Great Victorians like these.

The test suggested that today's students may be relatively well up in sciences, but it bore out the concern of those who fear that the art of strenuous reading is well on the way to extinction.

So what should children be reading today, and what do they enjoy reading? We approached 12 experts in children's literature, and asked them to help us draw up a recommended list of books for children from nursery to sixth form. But we found them full of healthy misgivings about the whole idea. Unanimously they agreed that any mandatory check list was anathema.

"It would be a thousand pities if any list were taken as a blueprint of what every child should read at whatever age," the critic Elaine Moss said. "Reading should be a pleasure. All children vary and the sex of the reader, especially between 10 and 13, makes an enormous difference." Martin Spilberg, another of our panellists and head of a boys' preparatory school, took a similar view. "It has always been one of my beliefs that it is better for boys to read anything rather than nothing. For the reluctant reader, comics, journals, *The Guinness Book of Records* anything so long as he keeps reading."

But then, as Bryan Alderson, children's books reviewer for *The Times*, pointed out: "Nine out of 10 new books are ephemeral, and parents need better advice." So, with provisos, provisos, our 12 experts consented to nominate six or more books for each of three age-groups: pre-school and infants (3-7 years); junior school (7-11) and senior (12-18). Our final list of 50 was then drawn up from those books which were mentioned by at least a quarter of the panel.

It was generally agreed that the age at which children began to read varied so greatly that it was necessary to include on the list for the youngest group books which could

be read aloud, as well as ones children could read themselves.

The distilled list of 50 books seemed a reasonably fair one to Professor Arthur Pollard, of Hull University, chairman of the Secondary Examinations Council's committee monitoring the GCSE and 18-plus English examinations. He has been involved in the selection of the set texts for generations of A level students. He applauded the high incidence of adventure stories, lamented the absence *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and forgave the absence of Shakespeare on reflecting that drama is better encountered initially in the theatre.

The final list contains little poetry and only one work of non-fiction (*Anne Frank's Diary*). The senior and middle lists are divided more or less equally between living and dead authors; living writers understandably dominate the list for young children, but the appeal of Kipling, Potter and Milne has proved durable.

Many panellists found it hard to pare their list down from the vast wealth of titles available. Isobel Raphael, head of Channing School, a girls' public school in north London, recommended only a few books by title and stressed the importance of introducing younger children to a wide range of Bible stories, fairy stories and myths, and encouraging older ones to forage among the classics and autobiography.

Some panellists found it difficult to fit books into the three age-groups. Inga-Stina Ewbank, Professor of English at Leeds University, said: "It is very difficult to attach books to ages, children differ so widely." Because of this, several books, including *Treasure Island*, *Eagle of the Ninth* and the *Just So Stories*, would have qualified for more than one age group.

The upper age-limit was felt to create a similar problem. Professor Ewbank pointed out that her own 16-year-old daughter was reading *Zola* and Jackie Collins.

Elizabeth Attenborough shared the feelings of other panellists so strongly that she prepared her list for children up to the age of 14 only. After that, she said, "they should be reading and trying out absolutely everything".

George Hill and Sara Driver

## AGES 3-7

(The number of panellists' votes per book is given, right)

Just So Stories Rudyard Kipling	6
The Tale of Peter Rabbit Beatrix Potter	6
Charlotte's Web E.B. White	6
The Very Hungry Caterpillar Eric Carle	6
The World of Pook A.A. Milne	6
Dogger Shirley Hughes	5
Mr Gumpy's Day John Burningham	4
Where the Wild Things Are Maurice Sendak	4
Each Peach Pear Plum Allan and Janet Anthony	4
Mr Magilla Queen Beale	4
Now We Are Six A.A. Milne	3
Rosie's Walk Pat Hutchins	3
Where's Spot? Eric Hill	3

## AGES 8-11

The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame	8
The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien	7
Ten's Midnight Garden Philippa Pearce	7
BFG Roald Dahl	6
The Iron Man Ted Hughes	5
The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett	5
A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens	4
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe C.S. Lewis	4
Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll	4
Complete Mausoleum Book of Edward Lewis Edward Lewis	4
The Ghost of Thomas Mooney Penelope Lively	4
The Silver Sword Janusz Korczak	4
Stig of the Dump Clive King	4
The Gnome Book Alan Garner	3
Charlie's War Mrs Joan Swanton	3
Catcher in the Rye J.D. Salinger	3
The Boy of Dullingham John Macfarlane	3
The Diary of Anne Frank Anne Frank	3
The Enchanted Trilogy Ursula Le Guin	3
Emil and the Detectives Erich Kästner	3
Goldengrove Jill Paton Walsh	3
Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain	3
Just So Stories Rudyard Kipling	3
The Hound of the Baskervilles A. Conan Doyle	3
Lord of the Flies William Golding	3
Moonfleet J. Meade Falkner	3
The Owl Service Alan Garner	3
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen	3

## AGES 12-18

Engle of the Ninth Rosemary Sutcliffe	6
Treasure Island R.L. Stevenson	5
Brother in the Land Robert Swindells	4
Smith Lion Garfield	4
The Machine Gunners Robert Westall	4
1984 George Orwell	4
Charlie's War Mrs Joan Swanton	4
Catcher in the Rye J.D. Salinger	4
The Boy of Dullingham John Macfarlane	4
The Diary of Anne Frank Anne Frank	4
The Enchanted Trilogy Ursula Le Guin	4
Emil and the Detectives Erich Kästner	4
Goldengrove Jill Paton Walsh	4
Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain	4
Just So Stories Rudyard Kipling	4
The Hound of the Baskervilles A. Conan Doyle	4
Lord of the Flies William Golding	4
Moonfleet J. Meade Falkner	4
The Owl Service Alan Garner	4
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen	4

## The Times panel

Elizabeth Attenborough: Editorial Director of Puffin, Kestrel, Viking Books.  
Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank: Professor of English at Leeds University.  
Chris Fowling: Writer, broadcaster, lecturer.  
Nina Berwick: Prize-winning author.  
Jan Mark: Writer and lecturer.  
Shirley Hughes: Children's author.  
Emmie McMullen: Director of the Children's Book Foundation.  
Bryan Alderson: Children's books critic, *The Times*.  
Elaine Moss: Reviewer and critic.  
Michael Spilberg: Headmaster of Lyndhurst House Preparatory School.  
Isabel Raphael: Headmistress of Channing School.  
Rev Yates: Library Services Director of Baker Books; Chairman of the Bookseller's Association Children's Bookselling Group.

## Growing up over 40 years

It is Jane Austen alone whom age does not wither, nor custom stale. *Pride and Prejudice* is the only work in our list of 50 which appears both on this summer's 'advisory book list' for the London and East Anglian Group GCSE and also among the set books for the 1947-8 matriculation paper.

The contrast between the two lists of exam texts is sharp. The old list would have been studied by the top 20-25 per cent of pupils at the then school-leaving age of 15, while the GCSE syllabus is for 16-year-olds, and is designed to cater for all abilities.

The 1948 examiners re-

quired a choice of three works from a list of three plays, three novels, six long poems such as Gray's *Elegy* and Wordsworth's *Intem Abbey*, and two anthologies of short poems and essays.

The plays were *Macbeth*, *Henry IV, Part I* and *John Drinkwater's Abraham Lincoln*, and the novels (in addition to the adventures of Mr Bennett's *Lizzie*) were *Lorna Doone* and *Hugh Walpole's The Cathedral*. Methuen's *Anthology of Modern Verse* included living poets such as Eliot.

This year, it is suggested that "at least two books" of prose and "a wide variety of

poems" should be studied from an immense list of 29 plays, 76 prose works, and 21 anthologies of verse.

The 1948 list contains no extended work by a writer alive at that time, but about a quarter of the GCSE list is by living authors—and a dozen or so deal with arguably 'ethnic' issues, ranging from *Huckleberry Finn* to a West Indian verse anthology.

The mix is giddily heterogeneous: Achebe, Gorki, Hemingway, Lessing, Shute, Sillitoe and Dylan Thomas clamour for the students' attention; *Les rubs* shoulders with *Oliver Twist*, *Macbeth* with *Kiss Kiss, The*

*Mayor of Casterbridge* with *Gregory's Girl*, and *Roots* with *The Day of the Triffids*.

## The Times 100

Correct answers to three of Tuesday's "100 questions for every sixth-former" are: Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1903. Strictly, Britain is a member of the European Monetary System, though we do not subscribe to its principal function, the exchange rate mechanism. The phrase "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" formed part of the American Declaration of Independence.

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7/89

**WE'VE GOT IT RIGHT ACROSS THE CHANNEL**



# Business takes off

As Britain's roads and airports become ever more congested, tiny airlines are springing up to cater for the businessman. Harvey Elliott reports

Financial consultant Donald Daltry is one of a growing number of British businessmen who have discovered that commuting by air not only saves time but makes money, too. Daltry wanted to open a new office in Manchester, but as this would require regular trips to supervise the operation, the thought of the lengthy road or rail journey from his Ipswich base almost put him off.

Then Britain's smallest airline, Suckling Aviation, announced it was opening a scheduled service between the two cities. "Suddenly I discovered I could leave my office at 9.15 and be in central Manchester by 11. It was fantastic... the whole project became viable."

His air travel is not only much quicker — around 80 minutes from Ipswich airport to Manchester city centre, compared with at least four and a half hours by road and around five hours by rail — but at £114 return (plus £20 in taxi fares) it is considerably cheaper than going by car of 38p per mile. There is also a problem with the first-class train trip — the time factor makes it almost impossible to travel out, complete any business and return the same day.

Suckling is now one of 46 scheduled airlines operating regular flights from 136 licensed aerodromes in Britain. Many have only one or two aircraft, but their punctuality and service eclipse any big airline.

This is the kind of travel Americans have taken for granted for years. In Britain, however, local air travel is only now being taken seriously. As roads and major airports become more congested, passengers are beginning to appreciate that local flights are not only quicker but more relaxing, too.

At least 30 scheduled British airlines, both big and small, are now crossing the Channel, recognizing the big potential market for direct flights from the regions.

Chris Healy, sales and retail director of Southend-based Falmer Jeans, was spared driving to Heathrow or Gatwick for flights to Brussels,

where he wanted to expand his chain of outlets, when National Commuter Airways began regular flights from Southend. "We can now make the journey without all the hassle of getting into London and we get to Belgium not only quicker but more refreshed."

The big airlines are happy too. The last thing they want is tiny aircraft, often carrying fewer than a dozen passengers, competing for scarce runway time at Heathrow or Gatwick. British Airways even agreed, two years ago, to make cash available to enable the small airlines to get started.

There are still problems. New aircraft, even small, second-hand ones, are not cheap; safety regulations are stringent and costly to comply with; passengers demand a high level of service. All this makes them more expensive than the big operators.

Yet this is not putting off newcomers such as Air Metro, a joint venture between Bournemouth Airport and a new airline company. "Many business travellers within a 50-mile radius of Bournemouth have to actually pass us on their way to Heathrow or Gatwick," said Christopher Hayward, chairman of the airport.

Air Furness, in Barrow-in-Furness, is equally enthusiastic. It operates a regular flight to Manchester from "the longest cul de sac in the world" and cuts normal travelling time in half. Ryanair in Cardiff has had such success with its flights to Dublin that it has increased services from three to five days a week.

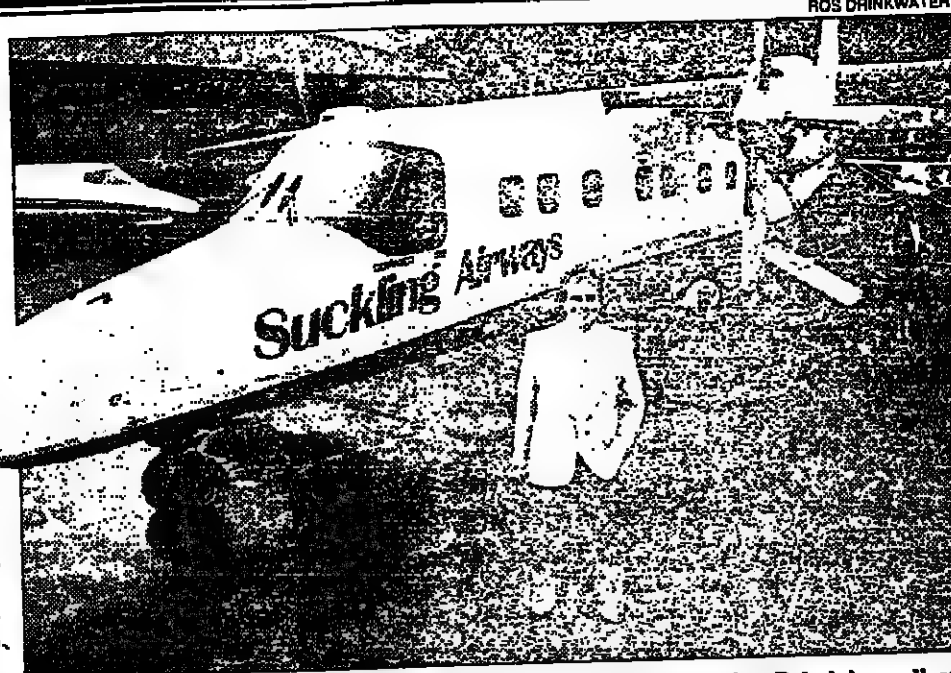
"Commuter services are the fastest growing sector of aviation," said Mike Ambrose of the European Regional Airlines Organization. "As the hub airports become full then direct centre-to-centre services are bound to increase."

Now small organizations such as Gill Aviation are bidding for scheduled routes from Newcastle to Edinburgh. Region Air wants to fly twice a day from Southend to Rotterdam, and well-established Loganair, which now carries 322,000 passengers a year, mainly around the Highlands and islands of Scotland, has

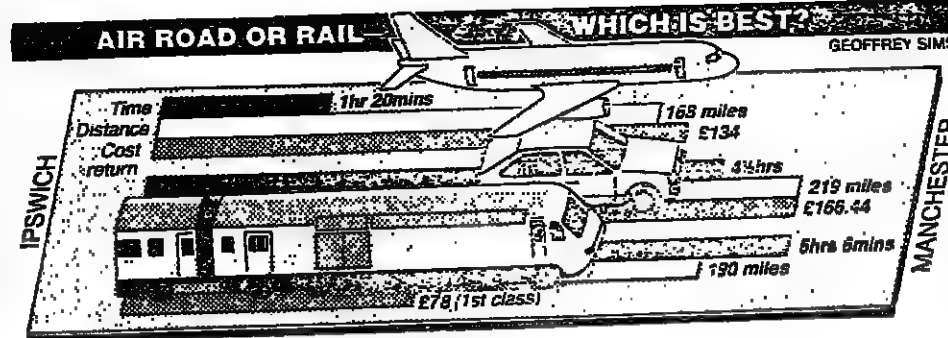
applied formally to the Civil Aviation Authority to operate the Glasgow and Edinburgh to Gatwick services.

Airports themselves, many of them owned by local authorities, are anxious to prepare for and benefit from the coming boom. This year alone regional airports are expected to spend about £22 million on improvements.

Many have become public limited companies and the Government is anxious to attract private investors to expand them still further. With airports such as Bristol showing a 40 per cent growth in the last six months of 1986, they are daily becoming more attractive.



The plane at your door: encouraged by the giants, Roy Suckling's airline, Britain's smallest, is now one of 46 flying from 136 licensed aerodromes. Below, how the competitors compare



## FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

### ASTRONOMY

Global star clusters, the spherical bundles of stars that swarm like ants in and around galaxies, are providing astronomers with a new yardstick for measuring the universe. These clusters consist of red giants, the oldest stars in a galaxy. Their apparent brightness has always offered an opportunity to gauge distance — the fainter, the more distant.

Unfortunately, the clusters vary wildly in brightness and size. Canadian astronomer William Harris, of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, has now found that the brightest clusters around any galaxy always have the same real brightness. This will allow astronomers to calculate the distance to any galaxy with detectable globular clusters.

Keith Hildrey

### PUBLIC OPINION

A recent survey conducted by Eurobarometer, on the attitudes of Europeans towards a "government of Europe", suggests that the Channel still gives rise to some nationalism. When asked whether they

would vote for a candidate from another member country, residents of Luxembourg were the most inclined to, with 73% responding "it is possible", followed by France (70%), the Netherlands (68%), Italy (64%), Belgium (60%), Ireland (58%), Greece (54%), Portugal (54%), Denmark (52%), Germany (51%) and Spain (51%). The United Kingdom was the only country to score less than half (47%). Robert Worcester

### CONSERVATION

Malaysian research in the South China Sea indicates that about 1,600 turtles — leatherbacks, Olive Ridley's and greens — drown annually when caught in trawl and drift nets. Survival is especially low in trawls because this gear is submerged far longer than the hour a turtle can survive before drowning. A similar problem occurs in shrimp trawls off Carolina and Texas in the US, where 1,500 loggerhead turtles drown annually. Such deaths can be reduced by using a trawling efficiency device (a barred cage placed in front of the trawl) and by a knowledge of turtle resuscitation techniques. Paul Manton

## SATURDAY Brave shot



Yousuf Karsh is the man who made his name by snatching a cigar from Winston Churchill's mouth a moment before taking his portrait (left). Since then, as Karsh of Ottawa, he has become court photographer to the rich, the powerful and the glamorous. To celebrate his eightieth birthday the biggest ever exhibition of his work opens in London next week.

Bryan Appleyard spoke exclusively to the man whose camera has flattered popes, princes and even Fidel Castro

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8 Exhausted driven turbine (8)  
9 Wheeled conveyance (7)  
11 Supreme German god (5)  
12 Dumbfounded (13)  
15 60's dropout (5)  
16 Sales item (7)  
20 Body frame (8)  
21 Lass (4)  
22 Harem guard (6)  
23 Parliamentary vacation (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Scandinavian spice spirit (7)  
2 Door bar (5)  
3 Corolla part (5)  
4 Celtic poet (4)  
5 Old Japanese self defence (7)  
6 Italian (5)  
10 Small cabin (5)  
11 Moisten (5)  
13 Countless (7)  
14 Lights (7)  
15 Hurry (5)  
17 Saul's army commander (5)  
18 Central Australian town (5)  
19 Yearnings (4)

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**ACROSS** 1 Libyan 4 Pontom 9 Proffer 10 Floor 11 Amid 12 Nobility 14 Convulsion 18 Fanatic 19 Ramp 22 Unman 24 Neutral 25 Edith 26 Stolen  
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# TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN  
OF FAWLEY

The House of Lords continues to astonish me. It is both grand and cosy, friendly and yet on occasion can be as strident. Most amazing of all is its entirely self-regulated. Despite the sedateness of their Lordships (or should I say "Our") something extraordinary seems to happen every day. First there were the demonstrating ladies hovering over our coronated heads clinging to ropes like lemmings; then we had the prophetic Old Testament figure of the Chief Rabbi arriving all dolled up in ermine and somewhere to go, sailing in to enrich our debates, and on Wednesday I looked up to see the Prince of Wales in a subfusc suit as might have been sported by any ordinary peer, moving modestly to the despatch box to take the oath.

Where will it all end? With Cardinal Hume. I hope. Why should we not see the most respected English Catholic prelate since Cardinal Hinsley taking his place on the red benches? Basil Hume is not a great ecclesiastical statesman in the mould of Cardinal Manning but he has achieved something rather more significant: he has brought a spiritual presence into the mainstream of English life. You don't spend years in prayer in a monastery without it showing. So why not allow us to hear that particular voice of the Spirit in our premier chamber?

Dr Runcie, another great churchman, is far too generous to object, and the Prime Minister is wholly without religious prejudice. And think of the possibilities. Cardinal Hume is more popular than any other Englishman since Cardinal Pole in the 16th century. His correct form of address after such an elevation would challenge the ingenuity even of Sir Colin Cole, our redoubtable Garter King of Arms.

I have never understood why T.S. Eliot stigmatized the lovely English April as "the cruellest month." January would be my candidate with post-Christmas blues in the cold and drizzle. But February, that is quite another matter. Even without this year's extraordinary combination of mildness and glittering sunshine, I hail February every time I go into my garden and see the carpet of delicate white snowdrops and yellow aconites that have so magically appeared.

I'm afraid I do buy the poor forced spring blooms in the shops but nothing can beat real flowers growing out of the ground at their natural time. This year there has been a bonus, the full crimson glory of Fulgarb, an early rhododendron, which makes up for the wretched birds, who have eaten every purple bud of my beloved Daphne, who peers at me through the breakfast room window in the morning, raising my blood pressure and enabling me to start the day.

February is the gardener's month of hope with its presages of the glories of spring that are still to come.

BARRY FANTONI



Remind me, does that mean we're keeping Trident or scrapping it?

Another form of plant was in the news yesterday when I witnessed the Princess of Wales deftly inserting an oak in the ground near the Orangery in Kensington Gardens. The campaign to replace the 5,000 trees lost in the royal parks in the gales of last October was launched by Prince Charles in December. In Kensington Gardens alone more than 300 mature trees were destroyed.

The eminence grise behind the project has been Mr Neville Labovitch, the dedicated chairman of the Knightsbridge Association. Anyone can send a tree to this excellent cause. You don't have to put it in the post but just send in £100 and you'll get a royal certificate by return. The latest donor, I hear, is Mary Soames, doubtless in memory of the never-to-be-forgotten Christopher, who along with Peter Carrington in Cabinet could always be relied on to support the arts. *Osi sic omnes!*

Speaking of the arts, I suppose the drama can lay claim to be the leading English art form. This is strange for an underdeveloped nation but in fact we are a theatrical people and care about the show — hence the dignified parts of the constitution. The English imagination is strong but suppressed. It is bursting out this winter in two remarkable performances. I have just seen Eric Porter as Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* on the South Bank, and Maggie Smith as Lavinia in *Letter and Love* in the West End.

Mr Porter's exorcism of the mendacity in every part of our lives, personal, familial and religious, is one of the most powerful theatrical experiences I have known. Miss Smith is the great comic actress of our time who demonstrates that comedy can be as profoundly moving and revealing as tragedy. Her "Oh Dear" when reality breaks in on her fantasy world at the end of the first act and she realizes that she is in danger of losing her job as guide in a dull, broken-down mansion is a gem always to be treasured.

Can that miserable Arts Council, surely the most detested body in England, really be proposing effectively to cut the grant of the National Theatre which can produce a flow of such masterpieces, and this at a time when they are dripping with Mrs Thatcher's largesse? Off with their heads, or at any rate their ears.

It is a profound conservative principle that the past, properly understood, serves as a guide to where we are and where we are to go. But most people absorb nothing of value about recent history from school and little but personalities and trivia afterwards. Since the First World War governments have oscillated between active propaganda and solemn defensiveness. Guarding what they call secrets, they believe themselves to be a wise elite, under siege from a volatile public; their electors, looking in, see them as masters behind the screens, converting knowledge into power. Educated trust has often been the first casualty of both sides.

But governments ought not to see themselves as enemies to shelter children from dangerous knowledge, but as auditors to help distinguish between volume and quality, "to know", as an Oxford don once put it, "when a man is talking cant".

Who should know, and why? Politicians not yet in office who will have to practise as professionals in the future; commentators whose business is to interpret and voters who want to appraise government performance. None of these is as well informed as is desirable in a complex modern polity. Reform of the Official Secrets

## Keith Middlemas on how Whitehall could make itself more open

# First step to public trust

Act is only the beginning. If the sensible ideas from Mr Hurd floated recently about his forthcoming Bill are a guide, then we shall at last have a sound rule distinguishing between unimportant, semi-important and genuinely secret information, with only the last safeguarded by the criminal law. But unless everything in the first category is to be treated positively and opened to public scrutiny, the Home Secretary will not actually be helping to educate the public.

The first requirement is to reduce the 30-year rule on access to government archives, preferably to 15 (there exists already a sort of licence for those who participated in the events to write within that period). Bringing the 1957-73 archives into the long process of historical reading down would increase our understanding of the most important transitions in recent British history. Instead of worrying about the minutiae of the Suez fiasco, we could learn more of broad

trends: how a post-imperial power reacted to a much reduced role, with a foreign policy limited very largely to its membership of the EEC and Nato.

On an almost taboo subject like immigration, material would become available to study the whole process from its late 1950s peak to the arrival of the last major contingent from East Africa: and we could begin to understand what — in Conservative circles at least — remains the "black hole" of the Heath administration of 1970-74.

Ministers guard very jealously their power selectively to release information or to leak — as Carlyle put it, "for men are very porous, weighty secrets ooze out of them like quicksilver through clay jars." We know a lot and suspect more about propaganda techniques and deal sceptically even with government statistics about the economy. But secrecy has remained a pervasive characteristic of British government. Many of the

rules have been made up along the way: it was shown during the Crossman diaries case, for example, that the "ancient" doctrine of Cabinet secrecy derived largely from Cabinet Office rules drafted in 1934 after a particularly bad leak.

Yet there is no good reason why news about the vast bulk of government activity is handled as it is. Why do we perpetuate absurd fictions about how Cabinet works? Ministers are quite well enough shielded from lobbies and interest groups. Without lifting the screen, let it be made less mystifying; let the Cabinet Secretary (whose prime duty is to the Cabinet as a whole) prepare, agree with ministers, and deliver after each meeting a public briefing on the main items of business discussed, not as a means to undermine the lobby system for Question Time but to provide a less passionate counterweight. So also for Cabinet committees, all but those in the most secret categories.

Collective responsibility would benefit as well as public understanding about range and content, though not of course about detail.

There is an old Civil Service tradition on which we could build to provide information in terms other than those dictated by party politics: the departmental history written by a senior civil servant. Sir Maurice Hankey's war book, describing how the state geared up for the 1914-18 war emergency, was not only of great value in 1939 but set a precedent for later war books, guides to contingency planning in crises such as the 1967 devaluation. His projected peace book, covering the civil process, was never written, but the idea continued, for example such as Sir Hugh Ellis-Rees's history of the 1947 sterling crisis (written in 1961 and significant in its own right).

This is a tradition from which all three categories of those who

need to know can benefit. Let each department set down its working memories now, and update it every five years. There are many officials on the point of retirement who would be both competent and happy to do the job. What minister, taking up a new office, would not welcome such a guide to the departmental ethos, embodying the wisdom of at least 40 years? After five years, publish them — in condensed form if necessary — as contributions to a new and continuing Official History of Government.

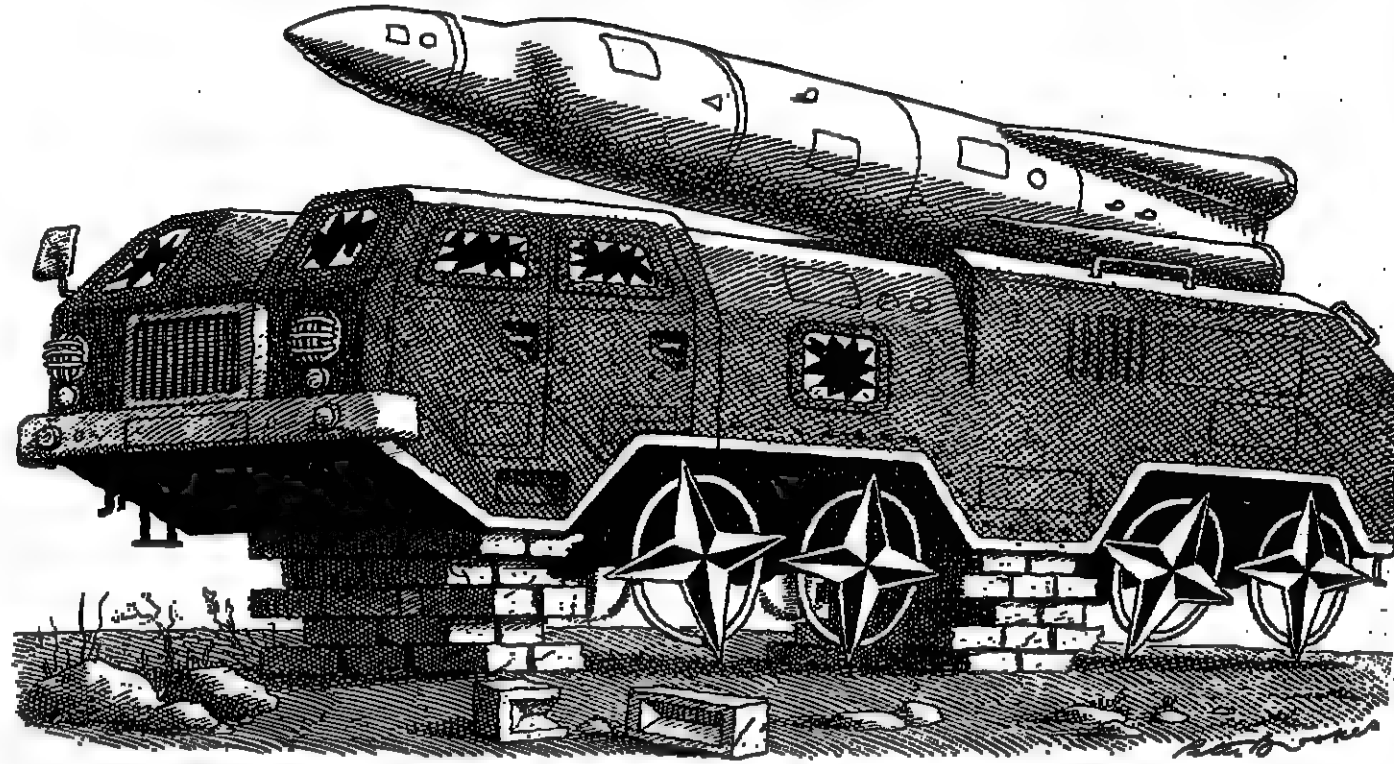
Other parts of the state have their own history. Those who find its Quarterly Bulletin hard going could in general terms still find out how the Bank of England works, or even M15 and M16 — vital institutions which apparently are either (or both) full of Russian spies and dedicated to the overthrow of Labour administrations. Is there nothing that could be said about their mundane necessary work that would not inflame suspicion or impair governments' secret powers of surveillance? To come to terms with the question what ought the public, in the public interest, to know is at least to begin the long overdue change from defensiveness to trust.

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The author is professor of history at the University of Sussex.

Alun Chalfont

# Can Thatcher rally Europe?



When Western leaders meet at the Nato summit on March 2, their main task will be to defuse the time bomb which began to tick when President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev signed the agreement on intermediate range nuclear missiles. If the INF treaty were ratified by the US Senate, and the arms control process stopped there, it would not, in itself, be a matter of profound importance.

It affects only a small proportion of the nuclear delivery systems of both superpowers; and the danger of cheating by the Soviet Union — one of the crucial issues in any arms control agreement — has been minimized, if not entirely removed, by the decision to include all weapons in this category, with no exceptions.

There is, however, more to come; and the debate so far has exposed some fallacies in Western thinking which give cause for serious concern about the next stages. The first is the common belief that the treaty will actually restore the situation which obtained before intermediate range missiles (in the form of the Russian SS20 and the American cruise and Pershing II) were deployed. This is, of course, not so. A great deal has happened in the meantime — most significantly in the balance of short-range missiles, in which the Soviet Union now enjoys a substantial superiority.

The accommodating Mr Gorbachev has the solution to this — he is willing to negotiate them away as well. If that happens, he will have achieved one of the aims which has been at the heart of Soviet arms control policy since the 1950s — a nuclear-free zone in Europe; and it is here that the next flaw emerges in the thinking of those in the West who regard this possibility with equanimity.

They seem to believe that the doctrine of flexible response envisages a nicely calculated ladder of escalation leading rung by rung from conventional to all-

out nuclear war, and that to remove some of the rungs is to make the ascent more difficult.

Flexible response is, in fact, something rather different. It is designed to deter an enemy from mounting an assault at any level by posing the threat of effective response at the same level. Denuclearizing Western Europe, therefore, would not make nuclear war less likely. On the contrary, the only deterrent against a conventional attack would then be the threat posed by the American, French and British strategic nuclear systems — a return, in fact, to the dangerous and discredited doctrine of massive retaliation.

Gorbachev has the answer to this, too. It is to abolish all nuclear weapons. The 50 per cent reduction proposed for the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit is to be the first step towards realizing that cherished dream shared by the Red Army generals and the "peace" people of the West — a nuclear-free world.

What this means is a world free once more for the waging of conventional war — a state of affairs acceptable only to those, like Gorbachev, with overwhelming military forces at their disposal; or to those in the West with no experience of the numbing, dehumanizing horror of "conventional" warfare.

It is in this context that the Nato debate now has to be conducted. The Gorbachev arms control strategy is crucial to the central aim of Soviet foreign policy — the decoupling of the United States from Western Europe, and the consequent unravelling of the Western alliance. Gorbachev must be gratified by the fissiparous effect of his carefully planned initiative. Already Anglo-French attitudes to the modernization of short-range nuclear systems are on a collision course with those of West Germany, and the European allies are rehearsing for yet another perfor-

mance of their celebrated impression of hens in a thunderstorm.

There is now a real danger that the common interest of Gorbachev and Reagan in securing short-term successes in arms control might leave a legacy of long-term shifts in the global balance of power which would leave the West vulnerable to the threat which it has so effectively resisted for 40 years. It may well be, of course, as some Western observers evidently believe, that this threat is rapidly disappearing under the governance of Gorbachev, and that the Warsaw Pact is, indeed, reassessing its aggressive strategic doctrine.

But it would at best be naively foolish, and at worst criminally irresponsible, for any Western government to conduct its foreign policies on the assumption that this was so. Even imputing the most benevolent motives to the Soviet leadership (in itself a notable triumph of hope over experience), the move from sus-

picion and military confrontation to the relationship of harmony and mutual trust has to be managed with realism and skill. A programme of arms reduction carries with it the same dangers of instability as a continuation of the much excoriated "arms race". In both cases, it is essential that at no stage should either side be tempted to believe that the situation offered the possibility of a successful military strike.

It would seem prudent, therefore, that the West European leaders should insist upon certain conditions as a price for their continued support of Reagan's negotiating strategy. These include the modernization of nuclear weapon systems not included in the INF agreement; the achievement of effective reductions in conventional forces and chemical weapons before any further reductions in nuclear systems; a clear understanding that the British and French strategic

forces are expressly excluded from the next round of Soviet-US discussions; and a clear undertaking by Reagan that there will be no compromise on his Strategic Defence Initiative — indeed, that it is not a subject for negotiation.

Mrs Thatcher's thinking appears to point generally in this direction. Her relationship with Reagan qualifies her uniquely to mobilize West European governments in the important task of influencing the future direction of American policy; but in the longer term she has a task of at least equal importance.

It is to persuade the European allies that, whatever agreements may be made between the superpowers, Western Europe will increasingly need to accept much more of the burden of ensuring its own security. The present situation poses grave dangers, but at the same time offers great opportunities.

In the worst case, we might be on the verge of the virtual disintegration of Nato, with West Germany seeking some kind of accommodation with the Soviet Union and the rest of Western Europe effectively "Finlandized". The alternative is the emergence of a serious West European defence community, able to pose an effective deterrent to attack at any level. This postulates closer co-operation in nuclear strategy, which must be based on the existing French and British systems, but from which Germany cannot be permanently excluded, as well as the development of modern tactics and techniques for conventional defence. If Reagan's legacy is to be, as now seems likely, the emergence of a strong, secure, and confident Soviet Union, Mrs Thatcher's might well be the emergence of a strong, secure and confident Europe.

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Lord Chalfont, a vice-president of the European Atlantic Group, is the author of *Defence of the Realm*, 1987.

• ROBERT KILROY-SILK

## Just antagonistic

What a lot of moaners the British are. There's not another nation like us. No wonder the Australians contemptuously call us "whinging Poms". We are. Almost every new idea, every novel suggestion, every radical proposal, is invariably drowned in a shower of condescending and derisive criticism. We seem to be incapable of reacting to anything new with constructive enthusiasm. We harp instead on the potential drawbacks.

An adversarial political system contributes to this peculiar propensity to be negative and bitch. Of course it's an essential function of the opposition to identify and highlight the weaknesses and inconsistencies in government policy. The trouble nowadays, however, is that, with the splendid exception of David Owen, this role is performed with rather too much childlike glee charged with more than a little spite. The opposition has become a gaggle of moaning minnies swooping on every fault and apparently unable to see merit in anything, even that which it once supported.

This disease has now infected those good friends and esteemed campaigners who do daily battle to make our criminal justice system more civilized. Hardly a new initiative in penal policy can be announced without it being almost immediately submerged under a suffocating avalanche of destructive dissent.

This opposition isn't organized or even orchestrated. Nothing so clever or sinister. It's just that it is already in existence waiting to provide the succinct quotes for the news pages and the letters columns. The ethos that what is new must be bad,

especially if proposed by a Tory government, is now so firmly ingrained in the minds of some of the best of the liberal establishment, has become such a fixed part of their value-system, that their first response to any reform is negative.

This has been the case in the last few years over recommendations for the introduction of weekend imprisonment, day detention, the privatization of prisons and, more recently, for the electronic tagging of offenders. I don't wish to suggest that any of these are without their difficulties or that they represent a significant answer to the problem of prison overcrowding. They're not and they don't. But neither are they without merit.

Yet each has been rejected out of hand, often in a tone of unmerited intellectual superiority. Worse is the frequent implication, sometimes articulated, that the advocates of reform, particularly if they are Conservative ministers, are cynically Machiavellian, actually seeking to increase the prison population — though heaven knows why.

Some of these characteristics have been displayed in the outburst over the suggested introduction of electronic tagging. One might reasonably expect that a proposal for offenders to be imprisoned in the comfort of their own home where they could remain with their family and, perhaps, continue at work, would find favour with those concerned to rehabilitate felons and reduce the prison population. But not one penal reformer from such august bodies as Nacro and the Prison Reform Trust has come to its defence. All have condemned the scheme.

Why? The first reason they give is a technical one: it would not work. They speak of the electronic signal being masked by refrigerators, and of it breaking down. This is so patently spurious and insincere that it is not worth discussing. More important is the contention that it is "degrading" and offensive to strap a bracelet on someone's wrist or ankle. So it is. But it's far less degrading and offensive than being locked up with two others in a cell for 23 hours a day.

Tagging is also said to be "negative" since what is required is a constructive alternative to prison. Agreed. But then prison itself is negative — as are most probation orders. At least in practice. Indeed, if the probation service had made its supervision constructive so that it gained credibility and the confidence of the courts, the Government might have looked to the service to provide alternatives rather than being forced to seek new ones. The probation service's failure is the Government's motivation for tagging.

It might not work. It might not result in the sought-for reduction in the prison population. That's a real fear. Experience with community service orders suggests that some of those who will be sentenced to be tagged would not otherwise have gone to prison. But some would have done. And they and the rest of us will benefit as a consequence.

In any event, there's little to lose. Wouldn't it have been good if, just for once, the response could have been to roll up one's sleeves and say, "OK, let's give it a go"?

The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

## SCIENCE REPORT

# Matter over mind

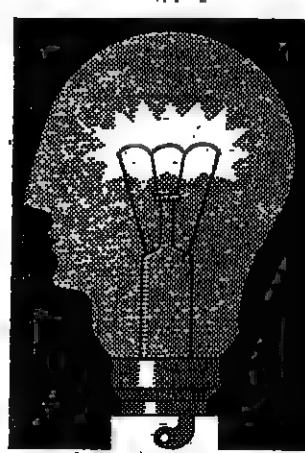
A new window on how the brain works has been opened by researchers at Washington University, St Louis, Missouri. In this week's *Nature*, they offer psychologists a technique for telling which parts of the brain are doing what at any time.

Dr Marcus Raichle and his colleagues have succeeded in adapting advanced medical brain scanners to psychological experimentation, freeing psychologists from the need to divine the inner workings of the human mind from circumstantial evidence.

The device that has made this possible is the positron emission tomography (PET) scanner, developed to help surgeons locate tumours and other brain abnormalities.

The principle of the application to psychology is straightforward: thinking requires energy. When a part of the brain is in use, local blood flow increases to speed the delivery of glucose and oxygen. A PET scanner allows changes in local blood flow to be monitored by injecting a small amount of a radioactive tracer into the bloodstream. Using gamma ray detectors linked to computers, the scanner identifies the parts of the brain where blood flow is increased.

The first use of the new technique in psychology settles an old controversy over whether the written word is dealt with by the brain in the same way as the spoken word. Because children learn to speak before they learn to



Richard Leadbetter

read, psychologists have argued that the brain analyses a written word into sounds before the word's meaning is understood. But the new study shows that this is unlikely: signals representing written words by-pass the "inner ear" of the brain where spoken words are processed, going directly to the parts of the brain concerned with meaning.

To follow the pathways used in reading and listening, the researchers added mental tasks one by one. With each added task, new areas of the brain lit up. As expected, when subjects look at a flash of light, the scanner reveals

activity in parts of the visual cortex at the back of the brain. Simple sounds stimulate the auditory lobe much further forward. Single words, presented by eye or ear without asking the subject to pay any particular attention to them, light up additional areas close to those dealing with simple visual and auditory sensations.

Subjects were also asked to think about the meaning of the word they were seeing or hearing and to speak aloud an associated word, for example "cat" for "meow". In that experiment, areas of the left frontal brain, the association cortex, lit up. But written words did not excite the areas concerned with the sounds of words, suggesting that it is not necessary to analyse the sound of a written word before it can be understood.

This first result is only a taste of what is to come. A PET system said to be twice as precise as any other has begun operation at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories in California, enabling scientists to see structures in the brain not previously observable.

PET scanners will now use about how the brain senses of the physical world, and there will be applications outside the laboratory — surgeons may be helped to avoid vital areas when removing brain tumours, and the mechanism of psychiatric illnesses may be better understood.

ALUN ANDERSON

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## BUDGETING FOR VOTES

The background to President Reagan's final budget was sharply illuminated by events in the New Hampshire primary earlier this week. Questioned on his defeat by Vice-President George Bush, Senator Robert Dole's first response was to rebut the "lies", put about by Mr Bush, that he wanted to raise taxes. Evidently the last thing Mr Dole wanted to be associated with was a responsible fiscal policy which he believed had cost him a significant number of votes at a crucial early stage in the presidential race.

For the rest of the world this is a disappointing comment on the nature of US politics. But it hardly comes as a surprise. The shadow of the presidential election, has for months hung over the struggle to rein back America's budget deficit. Its influence can only increase as President Reagan's term draws to a close.

The President's budget proposals for the fiscal year of 1989, which begins next October, display every sign of election frailty. At face value the plans are reasonably satisfactory. A deficit of \$150.4 billion in "fiscal 1987" is expected to fall to one of \$146.7 billion in the current year and then to fall again next year to \$129.5 billion. Such a rate of progress towards financial responsibility is hardly spectacular but at least it would achieve the Gramm-Rudman targets.

Unfortunately the cuts seem to have been achieved largely by the simple expedient of assuming the world is a kinder place than it is. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office recently forecast that, far from falling from last year's level, the deficit would by 1989 have risen to about \$176 billion. This was before the very modest cut in spending and increase in charges proposed in the budget, but the direction of change, in the CBO's view, remains clear.

The difference lies mainly in the level of optimism about the US rate of growth next year. Mr Reagan has boldly assumed that the economy will grow by 3.5 per cent which will

help to keep tax revenue up and social security spending down. The CBO by contrast takes the unpatriotic view that the economy will grow by only 2.6 per cent—a figure much closer to that of other unbiased observers.

There is a similar difference of opinion about 1988, leading to a similar divergence of view on the outlook for the deficit. The CBO forecasts a rise in the deficit to \$157 billion, the administration a fall to \$146.7 billion. Some of the gap in the following year may be filled by a planned increase of \$10 billion in privatization proceeds, but these—very properly—will not count in the eyes of the Gramm-Rudman Act.

Surprisingly in view of the long battle between Congress and the President over deficit reduction before Christmas, Congress may be prepared to take Mr Reagan's budget figures at face value. There could be trouble over adjustments to the Medicare budget, but with the election now clearly in their sights Congressmen do not seem to have much stomach for prolonging the war of attrition.

Markets had not expected much else from the budget and first reactions were muted—a modest fall in the bond market, some further decline in a weakening dollar. It means, however, that there is little prospect during the rest of this year of the US reducing its calls on the world's savings. The interest rates necessary to attract this money will remain relatively high with implications for rates elsewhere.

Also, the Federal government will do nothing to help rein back domestic demand and so narrow America's other deficit, on trade. In these circumstances the outlook for the dollar can hardly have improved. We may face a further bout of exchange rate instability.

Further real progress on deficit reduction will have to wait until a new President has been installed in the White House. How much he will be able to do to about 1989 is not entirely clear. The budget for 1990 will have to be judged by much harsher standards than yesterday's disappointing effort.

## DISPUTES OF PROSPERITY

If employees and their unions at Ford have scored a victory over the multinational carmaker's British management, it is largely a psychological one. They have shown that Ford tried to push faster and further towards competitive working practices than its work force wanted to go. The outcome will certainly bolster union confidence, even though union leaders misjudged their members as much as did Ford's usually highly professional negotiators.

A crucial test of the final deal will be how a mass of local negotiations over new working practices turn out in practice. Ford has been through a period of rapid and sweeping change in working practices and relaxing of traditional demarcation. It is to be hoped that employees now understand that was vital to the company's future in the marketplace and hence to their own future in work. Their unions certainly accept, at least in principle, that the process must continue as a normal part of managing the business.

If the right to negotiate and be consulted on change is treated positively, it could lead to a period of more mature co-operation. If it is seized as a lever to resist change, or to treat any proposed change as an opportunity to carve an extra pound of flesh, it will disastrously reverse the fragile recovery of the British motor industry as a whole.

It would demonstrate—what many fear is the case—that the management's drive to raise productivity depended on conditions of extreme economic stringency and had not been built in to a reformed manufacturing industry. Britain's industrial disease was, in other words, still virulent.

Even if that fear proves groundless, the price to be paid for the unions' psychological victory is likely to prove material indeed. Before the strike, union leaders stressed that the first

national stoppage for a decade at Britain's largest carmaker would be disastrous. Such crocodile tears are expected in negotiation at the brink, but the warning was genuine enough.

A relatively short strike is not going to change the rest of the world's view of British manufacturing overnight. But Ford will have marked well how quickly the strike in Britain affected its plants in Europe. It showed that the strike weapon—particularly the casual instant stoppage—has no part in an integrated production system that is easily disrupted.

Ford will learn that lesson when it comes to siting future key plants: a projected new specialist high technology plant planned for Dundee was already threatened by inter-union rivalry and must now be in even greater doubt. Others may receive that unwelcome message too, particularly Japanese and American firms planning their production strategy for an integrated European market in the nineties.

Nor is there any solace to be gained from Ford's financial settlement. The financial markets were already starting to worry yesterday about the latest figures for average earnings in Britain, which show that annual earnings growth accelerated rapidly to 8.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1987.

Ford's 7 per cent basic settlements for this year and next point the way to 9 per cent earnings growth. The latest deal at Vauxhall is similar, suggesting a new but familiar pattern. Such settlements may be justified in the factories where they are earned. They cannot be justified over the economy as a whole. They will certainly continue to price many of the unemployed out of jobs. And they threaten an inflationary trend sufficient for the Chancellor to worry about the economy's ability to sustain the growth rate on which such disputes of prosperity depend.

## BEYOND THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

Even before the next and possibly final round of UN-sponsored talks on Afghanistan has opened, a formidable obstacle to a settlement is emerging. Pakistan, which has hitherto supported the United Western position in calling for the withdrawal of Soviet troops as the key to any agreement, has indicated that it will oppose any agreement that does not also provide for the orderly transfer of power to an acceptable Afghan government.

It could be argued that when Moscow appeared to change its mind about the need for agreement on an Afghan government of "national reconciliation" as a condition of a Soviet withdrawal, it anticipated precisely this difficulty. According to such an interpretation, Mr Gorbachev's promise of a date for the withdrawal was merely a manoeuvre intended to undermine the Western position and keep Soviet troops in Afghanistan indefinitely. Subsequent Soviet appeals to Pakistan not to introduce new conditions suggest, however, that Moscow's desire to withdraw is sincere.

All the same, Pakistan's concern is understandable. A Soviet withdrawal which does not leave a stable interim government in Kabul will solve few of Pakistan's existing problems and could pose several more. Unless a new government is acceptable to the majority of Afghan guerrilla groups, the number of refugees in Pakistan will continue to rise. The fighting in Afghanistan, which has been concentrated in areas close to Pakistan's north-western frontier, will continue.

If elections are held, the result might perpetuate the present regime (and with it Soviet influence in Kabul), or it might reflect the growing influence of Islamic fundamentalism from Iran. Neither outcome would be satisfactory for Pakistan. Islamabad also has a point of principle when it argues that the Soviet invasion has only exacerbated Afghanistan's centrifugal tendencies and so

Moscow should be obliged to leave a measure of administrative stability behind.

Understandable though Pakistan's misgivings are, however, they provide no pretext whatever for the West to countenance the postponement of the Soviet withdrawal. One of the reasons—perhaps the only reason—why there is now a real prospect of the Red Army leaving Kabul after more than eight years is because its presence there has been consistently and single-mindedly opposed by international opinion.

The fact that Pakistan, or the West as a whole, might not like the resulting disorder or the complexion of a new Kabul government does not mean that the Soviet troops should be asked to stay on the offchance that something more satisfactory will emerge. That would only serve to make the Soviet presence appear more acceptable than at any time since the invasion and perpetuate the notion that Afghans cannot be entrusted with their own destiny.

A Soviet withdrawal holds risks for Moscow, too. Some of them—the possible emergence of a hostile regime in Kabul, instability on the southern frontier, the spread of Islamic fundamentalism—are very similar to those feared by Islamabad. But if even Mr Gorbachev has come to recognize that withdrawal is a more urgent and feasible objective than the establishment of a government of "national reconciliation", no less can be expected of Pakistan which has for so long urged a withdrawal.

Certainly, the more prosperous Western countries should try to allay some of Pakistan's fears. They should assure Islamabad, in particular, that funds will still be forthcoming to help Afghan refugees even when the Afghan problem is, in theory, solved. But now, just when the original objective—the withdrawal of Soviet troops—seems at last attainable, is no time for disunity or hesitation.

## Politics and power privatization

From the Chairman of the Weir Group, plc

Sir, Your excellent leader, "Politics for power" (February 15) suggests that dissatisfaction with British Telecom and British Gas—both of which were privatized within an inadequate regulatory framework—has made it a political imperative for Mr Parkinson to introduce "real competition" in electricity. This conclusion seems to be neither logical nor inevitable.

Surely, the better alternative is an effective regulatory system, particularly if breaking up the generating side of the CEGB so as to provide this so-called competition is likely to have the perverse effect of raising prices. The counter-argument, that this effect could be offset by allowing the import of cheap coal, is quite irrelevant, since an undivided CEGB could have done just that years ago had Government permitted it, and could do so in the future.

In this context, incidentally, what are the balance-of-payments implications of massive long-term coal imports, and will foreign coal prices remain competitive in sterling terms?

On a quite different point, what thought has been given to the impact of privatization on the electrical equipment and power-plant industries? They are large employers and important exporters.

Altogether, the heavily leaked proposals for electricity suggest so far a lack of strict and practical analysis and a politicized compromise that may give us the worst of all worlds.

Yours faithfully,  
WEIR, Chairman,  
The Weir Group plc,  
Cathcart, Glasgow G44 4EX,  
February 16.

From the General Secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association

Sir, Your leader on Mr Parkinson's plans for privatizing electricity correctly treats the subject as the political exercise, which essentially it is, and not as anything to do with improving the quality of the service provided by the electricity supply industry at present.

Your leader only reached a point of substance at the end, when it was said that opponents of privatization "point out that the CEGB supplies domestic and commercial users with some of the cheapest electricity in the world and argues that competition will have the perverse effect of raising prices".

I had thought your leader was going to examine that argument. Instead, in a complete cop-out, it went on to say that part of Mr Parkinson's reply will be to point to cheaper coal from increased imports after privatization.

But, of course, that is no reply at all. If it is greater imports of coal that are wanted they can be ordered by the CEGB tomorrow if the Government gives the go-ahead. That may well lead to the decimation of our remaining coal industry, but that is another argument (and one which incidentally, no one seems to be bothering about). What is certain is that electricity does not have to be privatized to import coal on a larger scale.

The crucial point your leader failed even to mention is this: once

it is realised that reducing the price of coal by greater recourse to the international market provides no justification for privatising electricity, what other justification is there? For what large and permanent quantifiable benefit is the efficient and vital electricity supply industry to be turned upside down for the next five or six years in the name of privatization?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LYONS,  
General Secretary,  
Electrical Power Engineers' Association,  
Station House,  
Fox Lane North,  
Claremont, Surrey,  
February 16.

From Mr Sel Ghali, Feng

Sir, It appears to be generally accepted that the only effective competition after the privatization of the electricity supply industry will be achieved by separating the national grid from the generation side and splitting this into a number of generating companies.

Accepted, that is, by most commentators except the CEGB. Their argument seems to be that it is essential to have an intimate relationship between the grid controllers and the power stations, achieved by common ownership, in order to ensure that the lights do not go out.

This belief ignores business experience in a competitive market place. Provided there are a sufficient number of generating companies with both long-term and short-term contracts covering spot pricing will be achieved by the generating companies who will be most eager to sell all the electricity they can, and give the best service they can to their customer, the grid company.

This contractual relationship, which ultimately determines the survival of a contractor, is more compelling than any intimate relationship imposed on the parties by bosses at headquarters.

The number of generating companies is crucial. Only two would be worse than a monopoly. A single company would be recognised for what it is, but with two there would be a pretence of competition with a high probability of collusion. They would adopt a cavalier attitude to the grid company.

There should be at least four. Until recently, the CEGB's power stations were grouped into five regions, with their own headquarters, and as a majority of their staff are still located in their own offices, five would be the logical number of generating companies, causing minimal disturbance to the staff who would be required to run the new companies.

However, it is very important that the power stations owned by each company should be geographically distributed, and not grouped as in the old regions. Such a structure would ensure not only "merit order" utilisation of the generating units based on quoted spot prices, but would also ensure some competition when the units have to be brought in out of "merit order" for the technical security of the grid system.

Yours faithfully,  
SEL GHALI (Managing Director, The Nuclear Power Group Ltd, 1966-75),  
238 Washway Road,  
Sale, Cheshire,  
February 15.

## Preparing minds

From Mr R. Aylieff

Sir, Today's article, "What do they really know?" (February 16), tends to perpetuate the misconception that education and knowledge are synonymous. There is a difference between education and knowledge.

Education is systematic instruction aimed at the development of an intellectual infrastructure—and character. Such an infrastructure provides a capacity for reasoning and a faculty for understanding and to this one can add knowledge. Knowledge is a person's range of received information.

People are the primary resource of a nation, a company, an organisation, because it is people who produce things, discover things, invent things and get things organised. These initiatives require a prepared mind. The function of education is to prepare the mind.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY AYLIEFF,  
Modlar Place,  
Sicp,  
Petersfield, Hampshire,  
February 16.

## Bags of garbage

From Commander John Lees, RN (ret'd)

Sir, In a recent, animated, domestic debate on the wisdom of hoarding plastic bags, I based my argument against retention on the numbers involved. To prove my point, a survey over a fortnight revealed that, in our household of two frugal people, no fewer than 40 bags per week could be disposed of (or hoarded).

Multiplying by however many other families—perhaps less frugal than ours, there are in the land, or indeed the world—and the numbers become more than astronomical.

Isn't it time we did something?

Yours despairingly,  
JOHN LEES,  
Dashedwood House,  
Bicknoller,  
Taunton, Somerset,  
February 10.

## Talks to iron out court troubles

From the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers

Sir, It is inevitable that when change as radical and on the scale of the new Crown Prosecution Service is made there will be teething troubles on both sides ("Police delays are bedevilling court services," says DPP," February 16). The important thing is to identify those problems and to tackle them constructively.

The new system has meant in many cases a revision of existing police administration and staffing arrangements. There are new demands on the way files need to be assembled and presented. The offices of the CPS are now remote from police stations, which has added to the problem of communication and has caused some delay in the handling of paperwork.

All these things are now being sorted out, but it will take time and patience. The problem has been exacerbated by acute shortage of staff. The DPP has recently been given the go-ahead to increase his staff by 1,000.

Liaison between the DPP and

the police service at senior level is excellent. Mr Green, the DPP, and his senior advisers have been holding informal meetings with the chairmen and secretaries of the major committees of the Association of Chief Police Officers. The DPP is shortly to join the ACPO and the leaders of the Superintendents' Association and Police Federation at one of our regular joint liaison meetings to discuss the issue.

The ACPO has always held the view that the CPS is under-staffed and under-resourced. It will also be faced with the problems of providing a sound career structure which will need a lot of very careful thought if the service is to provide the level of excellence previously achieved by police in the prosecution field. My association is anxious to support the CPS.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER BIRCH (Chief Constable of Sussex),  
Police Headquarters,  
Malling House,  
Lewes, East Sussex,  
February 17.

## Medical research

From Professor P. R. F. Bell

Sir, Recent letters about the underfunding of the health service have rightly exposed how seriously the service is now affected at all levels. As your readers will know, the Government has also been making cuts in higher education by reducing university funding, which has led to a progressive decline in the university system similar to that seen in the hospitals.

Academic departments of medicine and surgery in this country have for years been the meeting ground for university and health service activities and as a result are now under pressure on two fronts. The obvious loser is medical research, which suffers from poor funding from the Medical Research Council and other grant-giving bodies (also being cut) and reduced university finance. In addition, because of shortcomings in the NHS, extra clinical commitments have to be met by academics, leaving less time for research.

Many of the recent advances in patient care such as organ transplantation started in academic departments of medicine and surgery and were later transferred to the health service to the benefit of patients. This cannot continue with the present policies.

Yours faithfully,  
P.R.F. BELL (President, Surgical Research Society),  
Department of Surgery,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
Leicester Royal Infirmary,  
Leicester,  
February 3.

## UN security

From Mr Henry W. Rothschild

Sir, There is a lot of acrimonious discussion on the subject of the Austrian President, Dr Waldheim, when it is obvious that the Austrians have every right to choose their own president, without hindrance from other countries.

It seems to me much more serious that this personality was allowed to be Secretary General to the United Nations for two terms. Where were the safeguards and investigations then? Are we sure that people with similar blemished records, but not necessarily as ex-Nazis, but extremists of many persuasions will not in future be able to occupy positions of international standing? Should there not be a screening process before admitting people to high protected offices?

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY W. ROTHSCHILD,  
24 Wilberforce Road,  
Cambridge,  
February 14.

## Clergy and morals

From Mr H. Massey

Sir, I do not seek to prolong personal feuding, nor do I seek to defend the accuracy of Mr Gummer's interpretation (report, February 9) of the Archbishop of York's speech in the House of Lords on clause 28 of the Local Government Bill.

However, like Mr Gummer, I too, fail to grasp the "profound moral point" which Dr Habgood (February 12) sees in the "wisdom of allowing central government to move in the direction of controlling ideas by means of legislation".

I assume that, if that is his real concern, he must at the least question the basis of anti-racist, anti-sexist, and much other recent legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
H. MASSEY,  
49 Standlake Avenue,  
Castle Bromwich,  
Birmingham,  
February 12.

## Times past

From Mr Christopher Apps

Sir, Following the 20 per cent increase in cost this week I note, from my collection of Times mugs, that in January, 1785, the paper cost 2½d; in June, 1815, 6½d; in August, 1844, 5d; and in May, 1926, 2d. Maybe Lord Byron was right when he wrote:

The 'good old times'—all times when old are good—

Are gone. (The Age of Bronze).  
Yours etc.,  
C. APPS,  
The Old Granary, High Street,  
Barcombe, Nr Lewes,  
East Sussex,  
February 16.



## ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 19 1948

Forty years ago some South American countries were joined in their claims to territory in the Antarctic.

## ARGENTINA AND ANTARCTIC

### WARSHIPS DEPART FOR EXERCISES

#### CHILEAN BASE IN GRAHAMLAND

From Our Own Correspondent  
BUENOS AIRES, Feb 18

A task force of the Argentine ocean navy under the command of Vice-Admiral Juan M. Carranza, comprising two cruisers—the Veinticinco de Mayo and the Almirante Brown—six destroyers, and various auxiliary vessels, sailed today from the Bay of Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, bound for manoeuvres in the Antarctic regions near the South Shetlands and Grahamland, where Argentina and Chile are jointly disputing British sovereignty with all possible ostentation and defiance.

The Argentine flagship Veinticinco de Mayo broadcast a message to the Argentine people from Ushuaia last night explaining the significance of the manoeuvres and their national importance, and proclaiming Argentine sovereignty in the Antarctic. The announcement added that further broadcasts on the same subject would soon be made by an Argentine naval detachment on Deception Island.

The Chilean President, Dr Gonzalez Videla, arrived yesterday in the naval transport President Pinot at the Chilean Antarctic base on Greenwich Island, in the British-owned South Shetlands. The base was re-named by the Chilean expedition last year Puerto Soberania in Soberania Bay (called Discovery Bay by the British). Dr Gonzalez Videla is to inaugurate officially the military post, called Bernardo O'Higgins after the hero of Chilean independence, and is to review the garrison of Puerto Soberania. The Presidential ship was met off Greenwich Island by a warship and seaplane with a base in Discovery Bay. It is announced that the President proposes to visit to-day Grahamland, renamed by the Chileans Tierra de O'Higgins, where he will inaugurate a second Chilean Antarctic military base on the "Gonzalez Videla coast".

#### "CHILEAN SOIL"

Soon after his arrival at Puerto Soberania, the Chilean President broadcast a message to the Chilean people saying: "Under the strange solitude and silence of these polar islands we feel the intimate and patriotic satisfaction of treading Chilean soil occupied by our gallant sailors, sailors and airmen." The President went on to say that the glorious Chilean traditions had been preserved with valour and self-sacrifice in the inhospitable Antarctic which belonged to the American continent. Chile was defending the destiny of the Americas in the peaceful task of discovering wealth hidden from explorers and geographers, especially scientists.

The Chilean President implicitly invoked against Britain the inter-American defence pacts, referring to "worn out imperialism which threatened to rob Chile and the rest of the Americas of their lands by aggression and armed violence," adding that the Americas were now armed and united against aggression from a Power outside the American continent. The President left no doubt that he was referring to Great Britain when he mentioned the "extra-continental power which, frightened by Europe in convulsions, sought to trample on the principles of the United Nations and the international law of the Americas." Such disturbers of the peace and safety of peoples should think twice before contemplating aggression against all the Americas.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 18: Her Excellency Madame Lamina Keita was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Mali to the Court of St James's.

Madame Keita had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Mr Alan Munro (Deputy Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by the Queen, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr A.J. Coles was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mrs Coles had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Mr Soo Soobiah was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Mauritius in London.

Mrs Soobiah had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Lieutenant-Colonel George West had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duchess of York visited this morning visited Harfield Hospital, Harfield, and opened the intensive Care Unit.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall).

Mrs John Floyd was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by General Sir David Mowbray (Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty) at the Memorial Service for General Sir Charles Jones (formerly Aide-de-Camp General to the Queen) which was held in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by General Sir Robert Ford.

The Queen was represented by Mr Richard Thornton (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey) at the funeral of Sir John Gurch (formerly High Commissioner for the Western Pacific) which was held in St Lawrence's Church, Seale, this afternoon.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
February 18: A contingent from The Royal Anglian Regiment today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to mark the 50th Anniversary of Her Majesty becoming Honorary Colonel of the Hertfordshire Regiment.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visited Lloyd's this evening and switched on the illuminations to launch the Tenthousand Year.

Ruth, Lady Fernoy, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 18: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Nottingham Branch of Action Resource Centre.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Mark Baring will be held at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, March 22, 1988 at noon.

A memorial service for Charles John Hanson, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Law, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, will be held in the College Chapel at 2.15pm on Saturday, March 5, 1988.

### Chigwell School

Mr B.J. Wilson will be retiring from the Headmastership of Chigwell School at the end of the Summer Term 1989.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr P.A. Dineen**  
and **Miss C.M. Willy**  
The engagement is announced between Patrick, youngest son of the Hon Robin Dineen, of Ballycree, Co Antrim, and the Hon Mrs Rona Dineen, of Cambridge, Hampshire, and Catharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Theo Willy, of South Petherton, Somerset.

**Mr H.P. Haig**  
and **Miss J.P. Macdonald**  
The engagement is announced between Hugo Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Angus Haig, of Scampston, Inverness, and Janey, only daughter of the late Major Sir Alexander Maitland, Bt, and of Lady Lady Maitland, of Burnside, Forfar, Angus.

**Mr R.J. Sheen**  
and **Miss V.H.M. Gaunt**  
The engagement is announced between Roderick, youngest son of the Hon Sir Barry Sheen and the late Lady (Diane) Sheen, of Wimbledon, and Victoria, elder daughter of the late Mr Philip Spink and Mrs Philip Spink, of Lambeth, Kent.

**Countess Alexandra**  
and **Miss E.H. Fraser-Mackenzie**  
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Countess Alexandra and the late Countess Alexandra of Hilditch, Swindon, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Fraser-Mackenzie, of Lone Cove Estate, Mutshanga, Zimbabwe.

**Mr R.J. Cohen**  
and **Miss A.P. Stewart**  
The engagement is announced between Ralph, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Cohen, of Hale Barns, Cheshire, and Antonia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gillian Stewart, of Hyndland, Glasgow.

Seventh Floor, City House, Maid Marion Way, Nottingham.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a presentation and met members of the Sheffield Economic Regeneration Committee at Sheffield Town Hall.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal Jubilee and the Prince of Wales, President of the Youth Business Trust, after help in case it is seen as weakness. They dare not go to the very top of the company in case questions are raised about their competence.

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# A lesson from John McEnroe

By John Spicer  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Life at the top in business and commerce is now so tough and competitive that company directors and high-level managers are turning to "executive coaches" to put them ahead of their rivals.

Just as Bjorn Borg, Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe became world beaters with the help and guidance of sporting mentors, company executives are now able to turn to their own personal coach when things get really tough.

Ben Cannon is an executive coach; one of only a handful in this country or America. "These days the stakes are higher, the game is faster and life at the top is shorter if you can't stay with the competition. And I am talking about the business world, not sport," he says.

According to Mr Cannon, life at the top is lonely. Executives with problems dare not go to people under them for help in case it is seen as weakness. They dare not go to the very top of the company in case questions are raised about their competence.

Mr Cannon, who is aged 27, was born in London and educated at York University. After university he got interested in tennis coaching while playing at professional level and realised that the concept of the "inner game" could be applied just as much to business as to sport.

The inner game was developed at

Berkeley in California to help tennis players succeed by developing their mental skills. It takes for granted that ability is there. As Mr Cannon puts it: "Lennart Bergelin, the man behind Bjorn Borg, did not have to tell Borg where to put his feet. It was just a matter of fine tuning. It is like a pilot bringing a plane in to land. He trims the flaps along the wings with very minor adjustments. Just those little alterations that come with experience and all goes smoothly."

Mr Cannon likes to spend a minimum of six months on each client. "The people who come to me are successful, but they have realised that things are getting away from them. The fact they have realised it and have made an effort to come to someone like me is, perhaps, half the battle," he says.

"Take the senior bank executive who has worked his way to the top over 30 years with the one company, which is suddenly involved in a merger. Into the boardroom come young American whizz-kids in their Mafia-style suits. He suddenly realises he cannot even communicate with them."

"I know and he knows that he is right on top of his job. He has enormous experience and indeed respect. Suddenly he's faced with a new culture, his new colleagues expect different things from him."

"Similarly, I have been working with a television executive responsible for personnel and public relations. His job began in a quiet way, but over the years his responsibilities have increased to

such a degree that he is under constant demand and pressure. His worry is keeping the growth in hand and on top of the job. He is skilful, knows his business, but it is all a matter of keeping things in perspective."

To tackle these problems, Mr Cannon starts with a list of do's and don'ts he draws up with his client. Sometimes the list runs into scores of items.

Mr Cannon works in association with Saxton Bamfylde International, a high-powered management consultancy group. Anthony Saxton, one of the founders, tells of the day Mr Cannon "coached" him in the ways of making life at home more sweet. "My wife was complaining I was too busy to take her out any more," he said, "and if I did promise a meal or the theatre I invariably had to cancel it at the last moment because of pressure of work. Along came Ben and said that if business appointments were so important, turn the theatre or dinner date into a business appointment. With that perfectly simple piece of advice, I now put outings with my wife in the appointments book and tell my secretary I have a prior engagement if something crops up. As a result of a smoother home life, my business life is better, too."

It is the good businessman, like the good sportsman, who gets better after the right sort of coaching. Mr Cannon says: "It is all to do with making people think about what they do. Once I make them able to recognise the difficulties, my job is nearly done," he said.



Sir John Mills, the actor, who celebrates his eightieth birthday next Monday, with one of his dogs in the garden of the cottage in Denham, Suffolk, where he and his wife Mary live.

### Dinners

**Association of Consulting Engineers**  
K.H. Best, Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Hilton International hotel London to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the association's incorporation.

Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Engineering Council, and Sir Robert Scholey, Chairman of the British Steel Corporation, also spoke. The guests included: The Earl of Liverpool, Lord Lloyd of Haverhill, QC, Lord Haddock, Sir Alan Bailey, Mr Peter Montgomery, Mr J. Vancorbius.

**Association of Corporate Treasurers**  
Mr Brian Carte, President of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, was host at a dinner held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall after Sir Jeremy Morse addressed a meeting of the association.

**Refugees Club**  
Mr Malcolm Gee presided at a dinner of the Economics Group of the Refugees Club held last night at the club. Dr John Rae also spoke.

**Republicans Abroad UK**  
Mr David Mellor, QC, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual Lincoln's Day dinner of Republicans Abroad UK, the United Kingdom arm of the American Republican party, held on February 12 at the Marriott Hotel. Mr James Fies, chairman Worldwide, Mr William Burns, chairman Europe, and Mr John Wood, chairman UK, received the guests.

**Anniversaries**  
**BIRTHS:** Nicolaus Copernicus, astronomer, Torin, Poland, 1473; David Garrick, actor-manager, Hereford, 1717; Luigi Boccherini, composer, Lucca, Italy, 1743; Sir Roderick Murchison, Tarnadale, Highland, 1792; Adelina Patti, soprano, Madrid, 1843; Svante Arrhenius, chemist, Nobel laureate, 1859; Sven Hedin, explorer in Asia, Stockholm, 1859; Alvaro Obregón, revolutionary, president of Mexico 1920-24, 1928, Alamos, Mexico, 1880; Merle Oberon, actress, Bombay, 1911.

**DEATHS:** Elizabeth Carter, Greek scholar, London, 1806; George Richey, dramatist, Zurich, 1837; Blondin, (Jean-François Gravelot), tightrope walker, London, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, Haar, Germany, 1916; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947; Knut Lamsrud, novelist, Nobel laureate 1920, Grimsstad, Norway, 1952; John Grierson, documentary film director, Bath, 1972.

**Today's royal engagements**  
The Queen will open the Guards' Museum at Wellington Barracks at 11.30.

The Prince of Wales, President of Business in the Community, will visit Allenhursts village, Northumbria, at 10.30; the Prince of Wales, as Patron of Community Venture, will visit the Venture in Sunderland at 1.00; and will open Express Engineering's new factory at Kingsway North, Tynes Valley Trading Estate, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 2.00.

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open British Hartford-Fairmont's new factory and offices at Milton Park, Oxfordshire, at 11.30; and will visit Solid State Logic, Begbroke, Oxfordshire, at 2.00.

**Poulter's Company**  
The following have been elected officers of the Poulter's Company for the coming year: Master, Mr P. Kemp; Upper Warden, Mr H. R. Braithwaite. He was 79.

Ralph Henry Farrant was born on February 2, 1909, and went to the RMA, Woolwich. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1929, and served in field and mountain artillery until 1938.

During the war he held technical appointments at the Ministry of Defence and at HQ Middle East Force.

During the 1950s he was at the Ministry of Supply and

later, director of munitions at the British Joint Service Mission, in Washington. He then became senior project officer at the Armament Research and Development Establishment, before going to the Ordnance Board, War Office, whose president he was in 1963/4.

Farrant was a keen yachtsman - he received the Royal Yachting Association's yachtsman's award in 1974 - and was, therefore, well suited to his RNLI work.

His wife, Laura, a soldier's daughter, died before him. There were two daughters of the marriage.

## OBITUARY

### MADELEINE BINGHAM

Biographer of theatrical personalities

Madeline Bingham (Lady Clannmorris), the biographer, who died on February 16, at the age of 76, was known especially for her searching work on theatre subjects, though she had a number of interests and wrote on them with evocative craft.

Born on February 1, 1912, at Sutton, Surrey, she was the eldest child, Madeline Mary, of Clement Ebel, of the West End decorators, Trollope.

From childhood she had a remarkable memory, and during the war she worked for MIs at Blenheim Palace.

In 1934 she had married John Bingham, the crime writer (who succeeded in 1960 to the title of Lord Clannmorris).

Her books included an expert portrait of Sheridan; *Masks and Faces*, which dealt with Sir John Vanbrugh; *Henry Irving and the Victorian Theatre*; *The Great Lover* (on Beethoven); *Trilby*; and other works away from the theatre, such as *Princess Lieven*, *Scotland Under Mary*

Stuart, an admirable work on Kew.

An autobiography, *Peers and Plebs*, which told the joint story of her husband's family and of her own, was published in 1976. It is a witty and entertaining work among whose characters is an eccentric and tireless aunt Effie, who sued the War Office (in vain) in support of her claim to have invented the tank while in a psychic trance.

Madeline Bingham was also the authoress of *The Man from the Ministry*, a comedy which, after its first production by the Services Sunday Society in the summer of 1946, ran later that year (its premiere was on Christmas Eve at the Comedy Theatre) and in 1947 for 221 performances. In the West End cast were Clifford Mollison, Beryl Mason, and Charles Lefaur.

She married in 1934 and had a son, and a daughter, Charlotte Bingham, the author and dramatist, who wrote *Coronet Among the Weeds*.

### MR HAROLD BRAUND

Mr Harold Braund, MBE, MC, who died in New South Wales on February 18, was a determined and courageous man whose entire war was spent in the forbidding hills of northern Burma in combat with the Japanese. He was 74.

Braund was born in Ceylon, where his father was a tea taster and tea buyer with the Calcutta Tea Exchange.

The family came home to Guildford, in Surrey, and Braund and his brother were educated at Epsom College. On leaving school he joined Steel Bros Ltd, Eastern traders in oil, rice, cement, and timber. He went out to Burma with the company in 1934, to the oilfields in the north of the country.

When war came and the Japanese invaded Burma Braund fled to the Chin Hills where he spent the war in command of a unit of Chin Levies, a small and isolated fighting band. His integrity won the hearts of the tribesmen.

He had to learn Burmese and acquired a deep understanding of the ways of the

indigenous people. During those years he had to live for long periods in remote places and foul climate, moving camp all the time. For his war service he was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war he went back to Steel Bros and was seconded to Pakistan with Attock Oil, where he was general manager of the oil field at Rawal Pindi.

He retired from that in the mid-1960s and decided to move to Australia, where he lived for the rest of his days, first in Melbourne - where he took a job as buyer of a large boys' school - and then at Coffs Harbour, where he died after a long illness.

About twenty years ago he wrote a history for Steel Bros on the occasion of the company's centenary. More recently, in 1973, he published *Distinctly I Remember*, recalling his years in the East.

Harold Braund's faith lay in the Church of England, and it meant much to him. He is survived by his wife, Maxine, and by their son (a doctor in Adelaide) and daughter.

### AL COHN

Al Cohn, American jazz saxophonist and arranger, whose public success never quite equalled his reputation among his peers, died in Pennsylvania on February 15, at the age of 62.

Alvin Gilbert Cohn was born in Brooklyn on November 24, 1925, and studied clarinet and piano before turning to the tenor saxophone.

He served his apprenticeship in the mid-1940s, just as the big-band era was on the wane. Service with Joe Marsalis, George Auld, Alvino Ray, and Buddy Rich was followed, in 1948, by a spell in the star-studded saxophone section of the Woody Herman orchestra, bringing him to wider notice.

Like many other young saxophonists at the time, Cohn was inspired by Lester Young, whose work with Count Basie in the 1930s created for the instrument a style based on a light tone, a supple sense of rhythm, and an oblique harmonic approach capable of meeting the challenge of modern jazz.

Stan Getz, Brew Moore, Allen Eager, and Zoot Sims were among Cohn's peers, and it was with Sims that he formed an important partnership heard on records and in clubs during the 1950s and early 1960s, especially at Manhattan's now-defunct Half Note.

In contrast with Sims, who was an improviser pure and simple, Cohn's talent as a soloist soon took second place to his gift as a writer. His tunes began to enjoy some currency among fellow musicians, and his ability as an arranger could be heard in the mid-1950s album which he supervised, featuring his then wife Marilyn Moore, a talented singer who was heavily influenced by Billie Holiday.

It was not long before Cohn's jazz activities were overtaken by a new career working for radio, television, the cinema, and Broadway. He was chief arranger for such Broadway musicals as *Raisin* and *Muscle Music*.

Admirers of his improvising were delighted when, in the 1970s, he returned to the international jazz-club circuit, where he was often partnered by his son, Joe, a guitarist. His tone had deepened and darkened in the interim, lending his work a rough-hewn power.

He is survived by his wife, Flora, a son and a daughter.

### MAJ-GEN RALPH FARRANT

Major-General Ralph Farrant, CB, chairman of the committee of management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, from 1975 to 1979, died on February 15. He was 79.

Ralph Henry Farrant was born on February 2, 1909, and went to the RMA, Woolwich. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1929, and served in field and mountain artillery until 1938.

During the war he held technical appointments at the Ministry of Defence and at HQ Middle East Force.

During the 1950s he was at the Ministry of Supply and

later, director of munitions at the British Joint Service Mission, in Washington. He then became senior project officer at the Armament Research and Development Establishment, before going to the Ordnance Board, War Office, whose president he was in 1963/4.

Farrant was a keen yachtsman - he received the Royal Yachting Association's yachtsman's award in 1974 - and was, therefore, well suited to his RNLI work.

His wife, Laura, a soldier's daughter, died before him. There were two daughters of the marriage.

### MISS ELSA SPENCER

Miss Elsa Edgcombe Spencer, a former schools inspector, and a considerable linguist, died on February 11, at the age of 99.

She was head girl at St Felix's Girls' School in 1905, and later graduated from London University. In 1914 she joined the Board of Education and took up a post in India, where she travelled alone to remote areas inspecting village schools. In India she won the government prize for Urdu, against strong male competition.

She returned to England in 1918 and continued with the Board of Education, until ill health, the result of tropical diseases contracted in India, forced an early retirement upon her.







## THE ARTS

## Courage in face of Aids

It is odd that so far, television dramas based on the Aids epidemic have been heterosexual in emphasis. This is perhaps because the crisis broke before television had overcome its considerable reservations about gay drama.

But there is not the same problem with documentaries, and last night's *40 Minutes* (BBC-2), "Diary of a Frontliner" was a bold attempt to let one gay sufferer from Aids express his fears and emotions directly.

The programme managed to avoid the patronizing air of some films in this series, mainly because Peter Tilson, a

### TELEVISION

48-year-old hairdresser, was articulate and ruthlessly honest. He had been given a video camera to record his own thoughts at home, and thus could respond directly to the death of friends, the blast of the hurricane, or the possibility of oncoming blindness. (Tilson has Aids encephalitis, and is likely to suffer in the future from dementia.)

By itself this might have made an indigestible film, but we also saw Tilson at work in the Frontliners group which helps Aids sufferers, preparing a local newspaper interview in Ipswich where he worked, and talking to his family and friends about his problems.

Like many Aids victims, he appeared to find no solace in any distraction, religious or otherwise, from confronting his fate. Sharing the pain was his most positive act.

He spends time visiting hospitals, cutting the hair of other sufferers, and taking part in high-profile activities to alert people to the problems of Aids (of which this programme must have been the one with the most risk to his privacy).

In the end, though, it was his isolation and his certainty as to what incapacitation might strike, which were the most frightening aspects of his story.

William Holmes

# Home is the rink

### THEATRE

#### The Rink Cambridge Theatre

Although the 1984 Broadway company of this Ebb and Kander musical was led by Liza Minnelli and Chita Rivera, its indisputable star was Peter Larkin, set in a vast desolate roller-drome awaiting the first onslaught of the big lead ball.

Chris Kinman's set for this smashing production (from the Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester) is hardly less spectacular; but this time what goes on inside it amounts to a good deal more than a belting duet by two rival top-liners.

"The Rink" deals with a painful and messy period of America's recent past, and Paul Kerryson's production takes all that on board without making any short cuts to the happy ending before the moment arrives.

It is some time in the 1970s and Angel is trudging back home, a broke and clapped-out hippie returning to the nest. Home is the rink which she fled in parental rebellion and she now finds that her mother has committed the ultimate treachery of forging her signature to sell the place. Angel promptly blocks the transaction and sets about reclaiming her inheritance, a process that takes the form of squaring accounts with her mother.

Terrence McNally's book echoes *Gypsy* as another variation on the mother-daughter battle, though with the roles reversed. Here, it is Anna, the mother, who is the sexual queen bee while Angel features as the love-starved ugly duckling. The flashbacks to the days of Anna's courtship to a snake-haired Italian boy who walked



Queen bee and ugly duckling: Josephine Blake (left) and Diane Langton get down to the business of settling the score

out on her, show how the little girl grew up to be like that.

Around this central thread the show is reflecting the larger alienations of the period, and it is here that it loses focus. There are two ways of looking at the rink. Either it stands for the characters' unhappy past experience, and ought to be demolished; or it represents the lost values of tradition, and ought to be conserved. The authors make no decision either way, and switch between the alternatives at their theatrical convenience with the result that the fable falls apart.

What it does possess is a consistent

sense of tarnished innocence, established as much by Kander's sardonic fairground music as by the visible condemned playground, and a marvellously adroit passage of scenes between past and present.

The set itself, from its miniature bar to its degenerate Mighty Wurlitzer, is honeycombed with areas that become flooded with past romance.

The partnership of Diane Langton and Josephine Blake includes some exhilarating friendship numbers. It also exposes the numbing cruelties of their past. Anna has a big affirmative love duet with Dino, whose soupy

harmonies and throbbing ardour is undercut with harsh demands for the little girl to leave them alone.

Miss Blake plays this material with a fearless combination of bedrock sexual selfishness for which her charm barely compensates.

Long-limbed numbers are a great strength of the score, "Whatever Happened to the Old Days?", for instance, which incorporates a ghetto-blasting invasion and a mugging; or the glorious title number where the wrecking team take triumphantly to their skates.

Irving Wardle

## Poignant images persist

quietly mysterious book tells of Lewis and Benjamin Jones, who pass their whole lives working a remote farm on the Welsh Borders. One side of the farmhouse looks down into England, the other side up at the cold Black Hill. The twins' parentage is similarly divided, with a dour and vengeful Welsh father (Terry Jackson) married to the modestly cultured daughter (Susan McGoun) of an English vicar.

Charles Way's otherwise sensitive version under-emphasizes the role of the

racial difference in forcing a wedge between the parents. Their Lawrentian marriage is presented as sour from the start, but this simplification weakens the characters and makes it harder to follow the shifts in the father's feelings for his sons — yanking them away from school early, yet plotting with them against the corrupt Recruiting Officer in 1914.

By subtle changes of posture and voice Andy Rivers and Sion Tudor Owen are youngsters, young men and 80 year

olds, Lewis the one who wants to marry, travel, fly an aeroplane, Benjamin the one who loves his twin and cooks. Benjamin goes briefly into the army but otherwise they are seldom apart, growing old along with the cantankerous villagers in their Anglo-Welsh pocket of the world.

Way preserves Chatwin's simple speech, as artfully plain as Hemingway's, to which the occasional song adds a grave ground bass, suggesting that seasons change yet little changes. As the incidents pile

up the characters acquire a mythic dimension, always themselves but enacting profounder human conflicts.

Jamie Garven's accomplished production for Made In Wales Stage Company moves easily through place and time, using the full reach of the stage, and turning the central area of different levels, resembling a weathered flight of steps, into farmhouse, field or hillside. When characters die they stand for a moment on this height before stepping into darkness beyond it. The image is familiar but gains in poignancy with each repetition.

Jeremy Kingston

## Pure let-down

### DANCE

#### Triple bill Covent Garden

I wonder whether the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden has ever before given a programme entirely of plotless works. And, indeed, why they have done so this week. Is this a change of heart, an experiment, or just an oversight?

True, there is a pretence of a theme in *The Sons of Horus*: the goddess Isis mourning her husband. But that is only a pretext for a particular style of movement after ancient Egyptian art. David Bintley's choreography interests, despite some eccentricities, by its shapes and patterns, its occasional humour and the quietness of Lesley Collier's benediction at the beginning and end.

*La Fin du jour* also brings an unusual stylization, between-the-wars chic, but Ian Spurling's over-cute designs

undercut the sporty posturings of Kenneth MacMillan's choreography.

*Symphonic Variations* is the programme's centrepiece. It is always good to see Ashton's finest lyrical choreography, even if this time enjoyment depended on awareness of the dance patterns more than their underpowered performance. Because this ballet has no veneer of assumed style, it shows up more than the others that the Royal Ballet has let slip its tradition of handling pure dance with pride, skill and full-bodied presentation.

That is more obvious among the men, but with a few honourable exceptions it is rather uncomfortably true of many dancers at the principal and soloist levels.

Stewart Kershaw, returning as guest conductor, secured sympathetic tempos and passable playing of César Franck's variations and the Ravel G Major concerto, with Anthony Twiner and Philip Gammon as soloists.

John Percival

## Inside Raven's world

### Chris Peachment

interviews the novelist and playwright Simon Raven, chronicler of two generations of upper class bad behaviour, whose latest book is published this week

It is of course grossly unfair on both of them to compare the works of Simon Raven and Anthony Powell, but at the very least both have undertaken the immense task of a *roman-fleuve* which chronicles the lives and times of, if not a whole society, at least their class and set.

There occurs in one of Raven's books the anecdote of an army officer who would not use the field latrines for fear his men might see him. This is used as a put-down on silly middle class prudery, but one cannot help but think of the *put-down* with which Powell treats the sexual lives of his characters. Obliquity is his general tone throughout, and it becomes near impenetrably delicate when dealing with the business between the sexes.

Raven, on the other hand, dives headlong into the bull ring with Chaucerian relish. Bad behaviour, bad debts, bad characters: he loves them all with a pagan delight. His raffishness is based upon the sure knowledge that a gentleman does not care what others think of him.

There is also an incident in one of the later volumes in the *Alms for Oblivion* series when Daniel Mond, a Cambridge mathematician, rounds on Fielding Grey, the facially disfigured novelist and clearly Raven's authorial mouthpiece, and accuses Fielding of having shamelessly plundered their friendship for use as material in one of his novels. Fielding is hard-pressed to justify himself.

Given that several of Raven's generation, such as William Rees-Mogg, are quite clearly visible as models in this *roman-fleuve-a-clef*, one wonders if a similar charge



The ties that bind: Simon Raven (centre, above) pictured with friends and acquaintances, clockwise from top left: Mark Boxer, Robert Kee, Anthony Blond and William Rees-Mogg

had ever been laid against Raven.

"Not from the fiction," says Raven, "because for any one character I take several characteristics from various chums, and also mix in a bit of myself. The character of Gregory Stern, the publisher, was based upon Anthony Blond, my publisher, which he rather liked. And Max de Freville the professional gambler was loosely based on John Aspinall, who is a very agreeable man.

"Mark Boxer, however, did get rather cross about how I wrote him up in a memoir of Cambridge. He had forgotten that during his first year in Cambridge he had said that he was going to stop being right wing because it was no longer fashionable. He was cross about that, but we are friends to this day."

Raven's own career reads like one of his more racy characters. After expulsion from Charterhouse, he was studying classics at Kings, Cambridge (undoubtedly the reason why he writes perfect English) with a view to becoming a don, but found writing a novel more congenial than his thesis.

The novel was eventually published some 30 years later, but in the meantime he sought gainful employment in either MIS or Mf. "Never was too sure of the difference. But they wouldn't have me."

"Probably wasn't leftie enough for them. Or treacherous enough. Or queer

enough, come to that, although I was half queer at Cambridge."

And so he joined the army and had five educational years in post-war Germany and then post-Mao Mau Kenya. "The tavern and the camp are much better teachers for a writer than sitting around some university contracting tertiary socialism."

Alas, a string of three-legged horses led to half the bookies in the Midlands hanging on his door. "Fortunately, my CO showed me the fire escape. I had to resign, but at least I avoided a court martial."

All of which may go some way to explaining the main theme of the *Alms for Oblivion* sequence: that man's intentions, even the best of them, are too often undone by a malign fate. "Gambling in a way is a very moral sort of school, because it teaches you to put up with fate. Besides, if you hang around long enough, some big winner usually comes along."

In Raven's case this would seem to be Anthony Blond. After the army, Raven was putting himself about in the literary journalist world. "Looked up some old chums from Cambridge. Joe Ackerley was on *The Listener*. Robert Kee at the *Spectator*. Rees-Mogg was in some recherché economic outfit, so he was out."

An essay on army life, in a symposium put together by Hugh Thomas, led Anthony Blond to back Raven as a

potential novelist. Paying him a weekly wage of £15 ("good money in those days"), Blond forbade him to live within striking range of the London fleshpots.

*New Seed for Old*, volume four of his second series called *The First Born of Egypt*, features all the old characters from the first series, such as Captain Deterling, lately the Marquess Canteleupe, but now concentrates on their offspring. Or, at least in this case, Canteleupe's desperate measures to acquire a son and heir.

All the old corruption is there, but it is noticeable how his women are improving their manners. "I hate women and their possessiveness and petty jealousies," he says, without any particular rancour. "They are totally lacking in logic, and seem psychologically incapable of acting sensibly. And they are just as likely to be jealous of a man's club, or his job or his regiment, as they are of other women."

"Still, I think I'm in favour of these new feminists. Of course they can be tiresome and terribly silly, but they do seem to be getting off their backsides and doing something, which is more than my generation's lot ever did."

● *New Seed for Old* is published this week by Muller at £10.95. The 10 novels in the *Alms for Oblivion* series are published in paperback by Granada.

## Pretty piece is insubstantial

### CONCERTS

#### ECO/Tate Royal Festival Hall

Milhaud's Concerto for marimba and vibraphone is a bright and cheerful little piece: if it were a painting it would be by Raoul Dufy, and look pretty on birthday cards. A solo percussionist might be tempted to see more in it, but Evelyn Glennie last night was content to be limber and lucid, and efficient almost to a fault.

Perhaps even she wished she were playing something of greater musical weight, but then there are very few percussion concertos to choose from, perhaps for the good reason that our notion of the concerto soloist, even now, is bound up with ideas of projecting a musical personality, ideas which it is hard to realize when your only tools are hammers.

No doubt there are percussion concertos to be written out of the very impossibility of the notion: one looks forward to hearing Miss Glennie play them.

This perplexing programme continued with *Les Illuminations* and Strauss's suite of music for *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*. In the former Felicity Lott had to tread

warily under the shadow of flu, so that the careless rapture was muted, as it was also in some untidy orchestral playing. But from Miss Lott there was compensating glow and warmth, so odd in Rimbaud but so true to the work and so English: a French singer in this music might find her own language and literature made alien.

Possibly almost as much as Lully is made alien by Strauss, with volumes of percussion and a vulgar trumpet counter-melody triumphing over his little sarabande.

Jeffrey Tate's affection for the score is difficult to comprehend, except in the light of his championing of the Henze-Monteverdi *L'Alce*. Certainly on this occasion any charm in the thing was not well communicated by the English Chamber Orchestra, except in some of the woodwind detail and in José-Luis García's schmaltzy violin solos.

This was an evening that altogether misfired, with a poor, unexcited Royal Philharmonic Society audience and an appallingly badly proof-read programme book. It seemed a trifle strange, too, that the funds of the Barboulli Trust should be used to promote the career of an instrumental soloist who is already an alumna of Wogan.

Paul Griffiths

## Brief notes on a boundless epic

#### De Saram/Tilbury Lauderdale House

If this review were to reflect the character of the major work in this first of three concerts given in memory of Morton Feldman, who died last year, it would cover the entire page and a good deal more of today's paper. It would also be prefaced by an instruction to read as slowly as possible, and it would be coached in more poetic language, for the work concerned, *Unlimited Composition* for cello and piano, composed in 1981, contains sounds of undeniable beauty.

Like most later Feldman, the piece is characterized by small repeated phrases, silences, and a concentrated quietness and stillness which only rarely relent. Above all, however, our perception of it is coloured by that testing vastness, at least in a performance in such conventional circumstances as these.

Perhaps the hour and three quarters it occupies might pass more quickly if one heard it in

comfort, privacy, and, preferably, darkness. Yet, even in this situation, one had to admire Feldman's gift for plucking such refined, often delectable sounds from the air. It is as though he were randomly catching snowflakes, diffidently allowing them to reveal their infinitely varied patterns as they melt slowly in the palm.

Robert de Saram and John Tilbury gave the piece with impressive concentration. De Saram had to cope with a tricky high tessitura, but his control over dynamics and the quality of his sound were well nigh impeccable.

Earlier, Tilbury played the *Two Intermittences* of 1950 and *Piano Piece 1952*. In these works Feldman's musical relationship with Webern is made manifest, though at the same time the clean purity of his lines already points the way forward to the flavour of his later music. The difference is that, somewhere along the line, he chose to exchange the aphorism for the boundless epic.

Stephen Pettitt

## Smooth stamina

### LONDON DEBUT

Mark Pedrotti, who made his debut at the Purcell Room, has the gift of an unusually smooth, rich-hued baritone which he can, with total ease, propel up into the head voice of a near-tenor range. His production is often curiously like that of a tenor, the faultless integration of the voices registers, and the stamina in projecting them, reminds one of the Soviet baritone, Yuri Masurok.

This was particularly so, of

course, in his four Tchaikovsky songs. But the comparison ends rather abruptly when Mr Pedrotti's artistry comes into question. Too much is over-earnest, under-estimated; he functions better as an entirely engaging story-teller, a role he adopted with alacrity in a set of Canadian folk songs (Mr Pedrotti, a New Zealander, lives in Canada).

One of these was, beautifully, French, and his command of that language, if not its more flexible and finely nuanced idiom, was shown in two of Poulenc's *Miroirs brillants*.

Hilary Finch

● The English National Opera have been forced to cancel, for financial reasons, their production of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, scheduled to open on May 28, because of

the miserable increase of 2.5 per cent awarded to the company by the Arts Council for 1988/9. Ken Russell was to have directed — his British opera debut.

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## FRIDAY PAGE

Why America is hot under the collar about women and love — and Britain is hot on the trail of marital harmony

## Is it Shere genius?

The latest *Hite Report* has caused the expected furore. Victoria McKee meets the author and hears about the seven years of research — and the critics

Two burly minders, in the guise of doorman and superintendent, her the entrance to Shere Hite's duplex on Central Park South in New York. Inside, the "internationally recognized cultural historian and researcher" as the book jacket of the latest *Hite Report* describes her, lives in a room of frescoed and ornately stuccoed ceilings, oak-panelled walls inset with brocade, shimmering sofas, gilded mirrors and candelabras. One corner contains Hite's huge, cluttered desk, but the focal point of the vast room is the grand piano, decked with gladioli, which belongs to her husband of three years, the German pianist Friedrich Horvick.

"There's not much room for Fred's stuff, I'm afraid, with all of mine," Hite apologizes.

The theatrical setting, both home and headquarters of Hite Research, the company under which she carries out the research for her books, provides the perfect backdrop for Hite's dramatic Pre-Raphaelite looks — wavy golden hair, pale eyes and skin set off by darkly painted lips. Restless fingers tap to blood red nails.

Hite is still reeling from the controversy that has surrounded her latest book, *The Hite Report on Women and Love*, the culmination of the *Hite Report* trilogy on sexuality, the first of which (on female sexuality) was published in 1976, the second (on male sexuality) in 1981. Critics have questioned both her research (she sent out 100,000 questionnaires and received 4,500 anonymous responses from women across the United States) and whether her findings — for example, that 98 per cent of the women desired fundamental changes in their marriages — can be considered representative of American women.

Hite believes that the attacks on her methods have been launched almost entirely by men in order to conjure up a smoke screen to obscure the "real" issues raised by her book. Her survey discovered, she points out, that women are frustrated in their relationships with men, "not that women are unhappy, which is quite different".

"It's not true that there's been a mass uprising of academics and sociologists saying that my work is lousy," Hite says. "Time magazine started the whole thing with a cover story saying that women were fed up and men were to blame according to my report — before it was even off the presses."

The second attack came from ABC News and the *Washington Post*. "How do they conduct their polls?" Hite asks. "There are a million studies produced every day and I've never seen one taken apart like this one."

The *Des Moines Register* was also hostile. "Was their Iowa caucus any more representative?"

The targeting of a "supposedly" representative sample of the population was an option that was closed to her, Hite stresses, as only by being ignorant of their names could she guarantee her respondents the anonymity they needed to answer 180 intimate questions, "so that if they did have extramarital sex, they could be sure their husbands would never know". So she sent questionnaires



Shere Hite speaks: "Relationships are a microcosm of society"

out to "places where women congregate", and hoped they would want to participate.

Finally, in response to her critics, "I said: 'OK, if you don't want to think of it as representative, fine. Just think of these 4,500 women and maybe you've known a few women who've said the same things to you — that they wish men would talk more, or wouldn't put them down.' Her survey may not be perfect, she concedes, "but it is the best there is".

*Women and Love*, the culmination of a seven-year study of her samples' responses is subtitled "A cultural revolution in progress", and she would like it to be seen as revolution

in a very literal sense. "Of course it's political," she says. "Relationships are a microcosm of society. There is a line in the book saying that 'most women meet the system every day in the faces of men they love'. Two cultures have grown up over the years and are in conflict inside the home. By trying to get men to be less aggressive, less combative and more loving, women are waging, on a one-to-one level, a battle which is also the battle for society."

Hite is not sure that her critics understand this. "If they understand that it's not just a critique of relationships but one of society, and are really angry at it and attacking me in all these ways — including character assassination — for that reason, then I'm flattered. But if they're doing

it because they're stupid fools, upset that women might not be happy with them, then I say I'm moving to Afghanistan."

In the survey, 70 per cent of women who had been married for more than five years said they were having extramarital affairs, although almost all believed in monogamy and believed their husbands to be faithful. 91 per cent of those who had divorced said that they made the decision to divorce, not their husbands — and not because of adultery or an unsatisfying sex life but because of a sense of emotional isolation in the marriage.

"You would think men would want to know why most divorces are brought by women — they should be glad to understand what's going on," Hite suggests. But men seldom buy her books, she adds scornfully. "Women just underline the parts they find most relevant and give them to men to read."

She likens the criticism she has received to the subtle psychological undermining that the women in her study describe. "It's just like at home, this is the same thing on a larger scale — men using disparaging stereotypes and being condescending. They are saying: 'Who are you, some kind of weird person? And who are these 4,500 weird women and who wants to read this boring book anyway?'"

The previous night a meeting had been held to form a Shere Hite Defence Committee. Gloria Steinem, Kate Millet and other leading feminists have already signed a statement in her support, she says.

"If your research is attacked, you are attacked; but we decided to talk not only about me, but about the general treatment of women in the media — and to try to monitor the sort of things that are going on."

The front-page newspaper comparisons of Raisa Gorbachev and Nancy Reagan are to her a prime example of the trivialization of women that the new committee intends to tackle.

Readers of *Women and Love* may disagree with some of Hite's subjective analyses, skip over the lengthy chapters on lesbianism and balk at the suggestion of "a militaristic revolution", and decide, like her American critics, to take the statistics with a pinch of salt. But Hite feels sure that the words of the 4,500 women will make compelling reading.

The goddess Diana illustrates her latest book cover, Hite says, "because she was called the virgin goddess — not because she didn't have sex, but because nobody owned her. Many of the women in the book would not call themselves feminists, but they have pride and they are struggling in their private lives for some sort of respect. One of the purposes of this book was to show the women fighting these battles that they aren't alone."

Will there be a fourth *Hite Report*? Hite smiles. "We should all be thinking where we want to go from this point — and that's what I'm trying to decide. But I think I might do a fictional thing now."

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The *Hite Report on Women and Love* (Penguin, £14.95) is published on February 25

## Keeping the faith

Nothing makes gloomier reading than the new spate of articles on the state of marriage in Britain. The Family Policy Studies Centre recently released a study showing British divorce rates to be rising and the National Campaign for the Family responded with a call for no divorce in the first three years of marriage. Last week *The Times* called the rate of marriage breakdown a "catastrophe" and demanded adequate funding by the Government for research into its causes.

None of this impressed my closest friend, currently going through a sticky bit of marital despair herself. "He wants to go out with other women and be free of responsibilities," she said. "That doesn't require much of a study to understand." I mumbled something about it all being more complex than that, but it seemed to me she had cut the Gordian knot. There isn't much new under the sun, is there, and I can't see anything very mysterious about why our divorce rates are high.

Once upon a time, before the 1969 and 1984 divorce reforms, our opinion setters all moaned about how awful it was to chafe under the bonds of indissoluble marriage. Marriage wasn't indissoluble, of course, but getting a divorce required a bit of effort. Then we rearranged society so that people could get their divorces through the post without even having to show up in court and now there seems to be unhappiness that quite a few people are doing just that.

Meanwhile, human beings try to muddle along. Actor John Cleese and his wife were in the papers this week when it was reported that they were undergoing "a trial separation" which is going extremely well. People used not to call this "trial separations". The wife would announce she was going back to mother. The husband would sleep on the sofa. One or other of them would pack and return a week later, all forgiven. Tiffs could be cured. The minute the procedure became formalized with the sort of boy scout earnestness that the phrase "trial separation" implies, the marriage was almost always over.

What remains a constant in marriage and divorce is the human need for monogamy and the human impulse to stray. Although Shere Hite's new study on women and love claims that 91 per cent of women divorce for reasons other than adultery, I am more inclined to sympathize with the British Social Attitudes survey which rated faithfulness as the most important factor in keeping a marriage together (86 per cent) and constant unfaithfulness as the most frequent reason (94 per cent) for its break-up.

Human beings, after all, are a mixture of the stork and the baboon, as author George Jonas pointed out. Baboons of either sex can be seen in zoos enjoying sexual congress with any available partner without emotional consequences. Their encounters are perfunctory. They don't search each other out the next morning to analyse what happened and repeat it all. The baboons' way, though, is not the only route to happiness. Such creatures as storks also have an equally trouble-free emotional life for the opposite reason.

According to zoologists, pair-bonding species such as storks are incapable of forming more than one sexual/emotional attachment in their lives. In some bizarre cases, this mania for monogamy actually leads them to enter into lasting relationships with a member of a different species — such as the celebrated stork who fell in love with a turtle. Human beings are just fickle enough, like the baboon, to get into emotional trouble, but not sufficiently fickle to get out of it. If we were like storks we would never be tempted, and if we were like baboons we could yield to temptation gracefully. But, alas, we are human beings equipped, for better or worse, with a complex and contradictory emotional system. We are, in fact, a species of pair-bonding philanderers.



BARBARA AMIEL

What helped increase our divorce rates, I think, was that it became fashionable in the last 20 years among the progressives in education, law, religion and the popular media to assign a new moral value to the ways of the baboon. Just as in the past people would have been condemned as "immoral" for not behaving like a stork, still recently *Cosmopolitan* magazine would have diagnosed the same condition as "repressed" or "unenlightened". The spectre of Aids may have dampened that slightly, but proponents of the new baboonism promote this attitude through concepts such as "open marriage", "liberation", "the double-standard", "sex education" or "no-fault divorce". Whatever else such concepts may try to accomplish, they have the incidental result of appearing to make casual copulation without consequence the norm in human relationships.

Well, it isn't the norm. The norm in human behaviour is what we have always been doing: seeking lasting relationships most of the time, and breaking them once in a while, temporarily or permanently, for a variety of personal reasons. The truth is, being human, we are a little of both stork and baboon. Once in a while we reach out a long hairy arm to grab whatever fleeting pleasure may present itself, but more often our impulse, like the famous stork's, is to follow another being around for a lifetime, hoping against hope that it will not turn out to be a turtle.

The truth is, being human, we are a little of both stork and baboon

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From James Wilson, *Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London SE3*

Penny Perick's article "Press on regardless" (February 8) does not take into account that some 20-year-olds ask for a trouser press. I was one of these sharp dressers and I took great pleasure in being part of a small minority of my peers who possessed such precision leg-wear. I look forward to my 30th birthday when, according to the article I might rejoice a minority by wearing creases. As to the present I should receive on that occasion, perhaps someone would care to pay off my 10-year-old Austin Reed account, 120 months unpaid?

From Valerie Hales, *Westcroft Crescent, Sheffield*

I am a senior ward sister of a 25-bed subunit on an acute medical ward. In response to "First Person" (February 10), I would like to raise the issue of patient bed moves. As one bed falls free, the next patient arrives — but the patient going home may have been male and the admission may be female. So the nursing staff begin the following manoeuvre: three men from the four-bed bay (where the vacant bed lies) move into the three side-rooms; the three ladies from the side-rooms into the four-bed bay, the empty bed into the corridor to receive the admission — all interspersed with cries of "Don't forget the wardrobe contents". All moves have to be accomplished as quickly as possible as the admission is already in the Accident and Emergency Department and all as part of the day's work.

It raises many questions but I will just ask these two:

How can patients develop any rapport with their fellows when a disruptive bed move can occur at any time?

How much nursing time is occupied by such removals?

In my past life I must have been a furniture remover.

TALKBACK

## A child's eye view

Julie Jasper has a vision of a child-shaped world. It would include handrails at children's height in shops and public places, bannisters with rails not more than 2½ inches apart (to prevent trapped heads), checkouts and lifts built to accommodate double buggies and wall-mounted activity toys in banks to keep children quiet and customers sane.

Jasper concedes that British Rail may well balk at installing mobile climbing frames, but points out that it could include more children's drinks and meals in the buffet bar

Help may be at hand for tired shoppers with small children

and trolleys. She would also like transport authorities in general to adopt more stringent safety measures: "Some of the new ticket barriers can trap children with their pin-like arms."

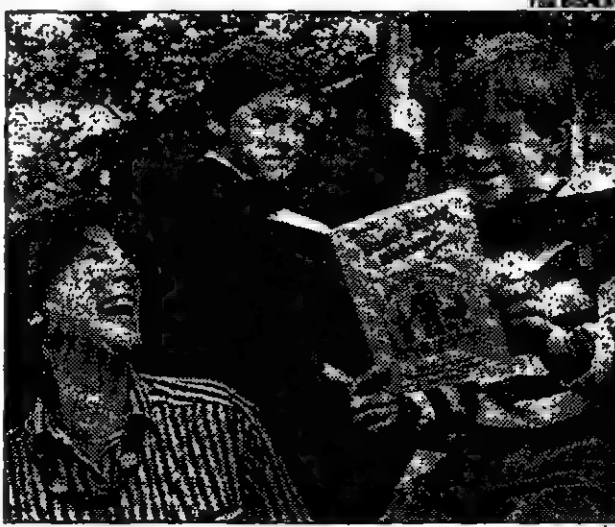
Jasper, 43, is a mother of three, a part-time lecturer for

the Pre-School Playgrounds Association and founder of the organization We Welcome Small Children, which next month publishes a guide for architects and shop moguls on how to design or adapt buildings to make life easier for tiny feet — and the larger ones padding wearily behind.

She started We Welcome in 1985 to encourage local councils and shopkeepers to be more sympathetic to down-trodden parents. There are now 61 branches nationwide, which have notched up such successes as advising Edinburgh airport on designing a mothers' room and persuading small Huddersfield shops to set up pushchair parks. Jasper hopes that the guide — called "Thinking of Small Children: access, provision and play" — will encourage similar breakthroughs.

Until now, she says, there has not been any technical information available on such problems as how much circulation space should be allowed in a lift with a double buggy, or designing a changing mat so baby doesn't take a tumble. Jasper has enlisted the help of co-authors Sue Cavanagh, who works for Women's Design Services — a commercial firm which draws up designs pertaining to all aspects of women's lives — and Jane Debono, of Camden Council's planning department. The guide's technical drawings, explaining how the improvements can be made, were handed over to Judi Sissons, an architect and a mother.

"Sadly, the British don't like children very much, partly because of historical reasons," Jasper says. "As a result, many mothers out with their children meet cold attitudes of thoughtlessness, like placing baby departments on the second floor. Another stumbling block is that only 7



Visionary: Julie Jasper with her sons Willem and Augustus

per cent of architects are women, so the majority don't appreciate, for example, the battle to get through heavy, double glass doors."

Britain, she says, compares poorly with other countries. In Switzerland she found family train carriages with toys, changing areas, book corners with recorded stories and even

"Many mothers out with their children meet attitudes of thoughtlessness"

a slide. (There were also Quiet Carriages for those who would rather steer clear of children.) In Denmark, banks frequently have tiny desks with pencils and notebooks.

"Restaurants, too, should read the guide," Jasper says. "It would be nice to see high-chairs, booster seats and plastic cutlery as part of the furniture." Swimming pools, she says, should have nappies by the side so mothers can concentrate on older siblings while baby sits safely; more public buildings should have laminated toughened glass; airports should have play areas; and staff every-

where should be trained to like small customers.

Responses to the guide's suggestions have been mixed. Camden Council was impressed enough to insist that a crèche was incorporated into Sainsbury's new Camden store, due to open in November. But Marks & Spencer, which points out that it has installed lifts large enough for double buggies in 100 stores, is not so enthusiastic about crèches. "We are here to provide goods for customers and not a social service which frankly should be the job of the town council," a spokesman said.

Jasper says the book will be a breakthrough even if only a few of the suggestions are taken up. "Anything must be better than the present situation, where some mothers are so fed up that they simply stay inside. Our dream is to see as many facilities for children and their carers as there are now for the disabled."

Jane Bidder

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"Thinking of Small Children" (£3.50) will be available at the end of March from the Planning Department of the London Borough of Camden, The Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9EQ.

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Peter Davalle

## BEC1

- 6.00 Cocker AM.**  
6.30 Kennedy in Vocalising (by) 6.55 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast Time** with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Plus, the latest news from the Winter Olympics in Calgary.
- 8.30 Lovers and Shikari.** American comedy series 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather** followed by **Open Air** presented by Eamonn Holmes.
- 10.00 News and weather** followed by **Going for Gold** (11.00) Children's BBC. Andy Crane with programme details and holiday greetings followed by **Play School** (1) and **The Wombles** (1).
- 10.55 Five to Eleven.** A reading by Patricia Routledge 11.00 News and weather followed by **Open Air** presented by Susan Rice and Bob Wallings.
- 12.00 News and weather** followed by **Olympic Report**, introduced by Steve Rider. Men's figure skating and speed skating are featured in this programme 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30 News. Mike cannot understand what he has done wrong - until he sees the contents of Mrs Manger's letter.
- 1.50 Film: Heaven Knows Mr Allison** (1957) starring Deborah Kerr and Robert Mitchum. Comedy drama, set on a small Pacific island, about a US Marine who is washed ashore to find it occupied not by the Japanese but by a solitary nun. The unlikely couple learn to live with enemy bombardments and each other. Directed by John Huston.
- 2.30 Ask Margo.** Citizens' rights advice from Margo MacDonald 4.40 Lifetime. (1).
- 3.50 Corners.** Young people's questions answered 4.10 SuperTed (1). 4.15 Jackson. Bernard Cribbins with part five of Anthony Smith's *Which Animal Are You?* 4.30 Kneecap Kneecap with Steve Coleman and Peter Simon. The first of a new series.
- 4.55 Newsround Extra.** Terry Baddoo reports from a training school for jockeys. 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode 14 (of 20). (Coastal) 5.25 Neighbours (1).
- 5.50 Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Andrew Harvey. Weather. 6.25 London Plus.
- 7.00 Wogan.** Tonight's guests are Sir John Mills and some of those connected with the sell-out *Mack and Mabel* musical - Jerry Herman, George Hearn and Georgia Brown.
- 7.40 Stanley.** Joining Les Dawson this week are Pamela Armstrong, June Brown, Gary Davies, Samantha Fox, Henry Kelly and Kenny Lynch. (Coastal)
- 8.15 Dynasty.** Alexis is preoccupied with thwarting her ex-husband's political aspirations. (Coastal)
- 8.40 News O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis and Debbie Throver. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 Rockstar's Babes.** Investigate cases of arson; a Chinese take-away that has been asked for protection money; and some disappearing scaffolding. (Coastal)
- 10.25 John Mills - Eighty Years On.** A tribute to the actor who will soon be celebrating 80 years on stage and screen. (Coastal)
- 11.15 Film: Mary Poppins** (1964) starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. Royal Navy drama about the crew of a submarine trapped 90 feet below the surface. Directed by Roy Baker.
- 12.50 News Weather.**

## BBC2

- 8.55 Open University:** Measuring the Earth and the Moon. Ends at 7.30. 9.00 *Coastal*.
- 9.30 Daytime on Two.** Muriel Gray investigates Scotland's built environment. Part 6 of *George Fraser* 10.15 A group of children follow the Glasgow Marathon route by bus 10.30 *Raiden* and how it can be fought 11.00 *Storyline* 11.15 Children and computers 11.25 A trip down a coal mine 12.00 English: wartime propaganda 12.35 Teenagers get a taste of time and learn to cope with it 1.05 A French jockey-training establishment catering for both young men and young women 1.20 For the young 2.00 News and weather followed by a series for four- and five-year olds.
- 2.15 Weekend Outlook (1).**
- 2.50 Crufts 88.** Angela Ripston and Peter Purves attend the early rounds of last week's show at Earls Court with highlights of the working, toy and utility breeds, plus the choosing of the Crufts Supreme Champion. The commentator is Mike Stockman.
- 3.00 News and weather** followed by *Olympic Report* of the Day. Today's featured ice hockey match is between Canada and Finland.
- 3.50 News, regional news and weather.**
- 4.00 Catchword.** Word game presented by Paul Cole.
- 4.30 River Journeys.** Russell Bradburn travels Australia's Murray River from its source to the sea (1). (Coastal)
- 4.55 Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Desmond Lynam. Action from the figure skating, ice hockey and speed skating events, plus news of the men's luge double event and a men's 15km cross-country skiing.
- 7.30 Rome Plays: This Year's Model.** by Tony Marchant. The story of a 16-year-old girl who wants to become a photographer. Mike Sledge is convinced by her friend Mary that she should use her figure to her advantage, so with her mother as chaperone she visits a modelling agency. Starring Jenny Jay (1).
- 8.00 Under the Eagle's Wing.** A documentary about American village life around the Suffolk military bases of Lakenheath and Mildenhall.
- 8.30 Gardeners' World** presented from Barnsley by Geoff Hamilton and Anne Swinbank. Advice on sowing, shrub pruning and feeding, including confers, and old and new true varieties.
- 9.00 The Tracey Ullman Show** with Julie Kavanagh, Don Castellaneta, Joe Malone and Sam McMurray.
- 9.25 Australia by Sea.** An award-winning self-portrait of the scenic coastline, aided and abetted by his former *Private Eye* colleagues Willie Rushton, Peter Cook and Richard Ingrams, and Sunday Times editors past and present Harold Evans and Andrew Neil (1).
- 10.25 Newsnight.** The latest national and international news including extended coverage of one of the main stories of the day. 11.40 Weather.
- 11.15 Olympic Report.** Highlights of the day's competitions in Calgary.
- 11.45 Film: Reach for the Top** (1958) starring Joanne Woodward and Estelle Parsons. The story of a middle-aged spinster school teacher, living with her mother, who tries to revolutionize her life. Directed by Paul Newman. Ends at 1.15am.



Scarfe on Scarfe BBC2, 9.25pm

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am** begins with cartoons and a comedy series followed at 7.00 by part one of *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Kay. At 8.00 in part two Kay is joined by Mike Morris. After Nine includes astrologer Russell Grant.
- 9.25 Thames news.**
- 9.30 Give Us a Clue.** Celebrity charades game presented by Michael Parkinson. This morning Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Pamela Fielding, Linda Lusardi, Kenny Lynch, Annette Rice, Jimmy Tarbuck and Bernie Wintson.
- 10.40 Santa Barbara** 10.25 News headlines.
- 10.30 The Time... The Place...** Mike Scott chairs a discussion on selling on eBay at a job interview 11.10 *Raiden*. Learning about teeth with the aid of puppets (1). 11.25 Thames news headlines.
- 11.30 Three Years and Then?** The first of a new series of six programmes on how retirement affects the way we relate to others 11.50 *Base*. Music and chat show presented by Suzi Quatro. News with Julia Somerville.
- 12.30 10.00 Thames news.**
- 1.00 Channel 4.** Association game presented by Jeremy Beadle 1.30 *Men in a Suitscape*. McCall, an ex-CIA agent, investigates the disappearance of a well-known Jesuit priest in Africa. Starring Richard Bradford, Patrick Allen and Colin Blakely (1).
- 2.30 In Loving Memory.** A comedy series starring Thora Hird about a family-run firm of Yorkshire undertakers (1). 3.00 *Gems*. Rag trade serial set in London 3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian family drama serial.
- 4.00 The Raggy Doll.** Last in the series 4.10 *Top Gear* 4.20 *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* (1).
- 4.45 Splash** joins a group of schoolchildren from Sussex on holiday in The Gambia.
- 5.15 Connections.** Quiz game 5.45 *Weekend Update* with Stewart.
- 6.00 The 10 O'Clock Show.** 7.00 *The Price is Right*. Leslie Crowther's game show.
- 8.00 A Kind of Living.** (Oracle) (see Choice).
- 8.30 Watchdog.** The first of a new series of the comedy love story starring Emma Wray and Paul Brown.
- 9.00 The Professionals: Blood Sports.** C15 investigates the murder in England of the polo-playing son of a South American president. The problem for Bodie and Doyle is the man's father is as much a suspect as his political opponent. Starring Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw and Lewis Collins (1). (Oracle)
- 10.00 News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall 10.30 *ITV News* and weather.
- 10.35 The London Programme.** Trevor Phillips reports on the boom in cosmetic surgery despite their being no formal training system for cosmetic surgeons, nor any set of recognized standards or controls.
- 11.05 South of Watford** examines why reading comics, or graphic novels as they are increasingly called, has become a trendy pastime.
- 11.35 California crime series.**
- 12.30am Throb.** American comedy series. Followed by news headlines.
- 1.00 Night Network** includes Mary Anne Hobbs of *Soundwave* magazine reviewing the music papers; performances by Everything But the Girl and Pop Will Eat Itself; and an interview with the winning sports photographer Eamonn McCabe.
- 4.00 Basketball '88.** UCLA at St Louis.
- 5.00 ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Schools** how children cope with being sorry 9.42 *A Panorama* of the Royal Netherlands Air Force and great Dutch painters 9.50 *Urban* pollution and campaigns to counteract the damage 10.25 *Chemistry* 10.45 GCSE pupils explore man's interaction with the environment 11.05 *A story* told through moving images and downing 11.22 The variety of movement in the animal world 11.41 *Exciting uses of computers.*
- 12.00 Business Daily.** Financial and business news series presented by Mark Rogerson.
- 12.30 Abolitionists.** Part six of the 16-part series on science and technology subjects under the United Nations trusteeship. Before it relinquishes its grip on the island the US wants a 50-year agreement giving them the right to bring nuclear weapons and ships to the island. But Palau wants the first nuclear-free constitution in the world and wants to keep it. Among those taking part in the programme are Casper Winer and Ronald Hay and Eugene J. Carroll.
- 1.00 The Cosby Show.** American domestic comedy series. (Oracle)
- 1.30 The Wine Programme.** Jancis Robinson investigates the role of the wine merchant (1). (postponed from January 29) (Oracle)
- 1.50 Cheers.** Comedy set in a Boston bar where, tonight, Sam is persuaded to stand for an old sports car. Starring Ted Danson. (Oracle)
- 10.30 Friday Night Live.** The first of a new 10-programme comedy and sketch series presented by Ben Elton with Harry Enfield. Tonight's guests include the Joan Collins Fan Club; Feargal Sharkey; stand-up comic Bob Mills and the Weinsteins (Cherrie and Valerie); and the first nuclear-free constitution in the world and wants to keep it. Among those taking part in the programme are Casper Winer and Ronald Hay and Eugene J. Carroll.
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## VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALES:** 8.25pm-8.30pm *Wales Today* 8.35-7.00pm News followed by *Wales Today* 10.25-10.30pm *Wales Today* 10.35-10.40pm *Wales Today* 10.45-10.50pm *Wales Today* 10.55-11.00pm *Wales Today* 11.05-11.10pm *Wales Today* 11.15-11.20pm *Wales Today* 11.25-11.30pm *Wales Today* 11.35-11.40pm *Wales Today* 11.45-11.50pm *Wales Today* 11.55-12.00pm *Wales Today* 12.05-12.10pm *Wales Today* 12.15-12.20pm *Wales Today* 12.25-12.30pm *Wales Today* 12.35-12.40pm *Wales Today* 12.45-12.50pm *Wales Today* 12.55-1.00pm *Wales Today* 1.05-1.10pm *Wales Today* 1.15-1.20pm *Wales Today* 1.25-1.30pm *Wales Today* 1.35-1.40pm *Wales Today* 1.45-1.50pm *Wales Today* 1.55-2.00pm *Wales Today* 2.05-2.10pm *Wales Today* 2.15-2.20pm *Wales Today* 2.25-2.30pm *Wales Today* 2.35-2.40pm *Wales Today* 2.45-2.50pm *Wales Today* 2.55-3.00pm *Wales Today* 3.05-3.10pm *Wales Today* 3.15-3.20pm *Wales Today* 3.25-3.30pm *Wales Today* 3.35-3.40pm *Wales Today* 3.45-3.50pm *Wales Today* 3.55-4.00pm *Wales 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## Talks on Soviet ethnic unrest

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday called for a special plenary session of the Communist Party's ruling Central Committee to discuss ways of tackling the rising tide of nationalism in the Soviet Union which has prompted ethnic unrest from Central Asia to the Baltic republics.

Western diplomatic observers claim that the spread of national feeling among non-Russians — which has included fierce riots in Kazakhstan and an unprecedented demonstration by displaced Crimean Tatars in Red Square — is the greatest single threat to the stability of the Communist state.

The Western experts point out that national feelings among Soviet minorities have been fanned in recent years by the growth of Islam in the southern republics, where youths have been reported as flouting refusing to serve in the Soviet Army fighting Muslim rebels in Afghanistan.

The Soviet leader told a biennial session of the policy-making body in Moscow summoned mainly to deal with education reform: "At the present stage, we must deal with nationalities policy very substantially. This is the most fundamental and vital question of our society."

Many conservatives inside the Kremlin hierarchy have privately blamed the recent liberalization in Soviet society for the rapid growth of national sentiment. But publicly, much of it — particularly in the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — has been blamed by the Soviet propaganda machine on incitement from the West.

In an important speech on domestic and international policy, Mr Gorbachev told members of the 307-strong committee that there had been recent manifestations of "nationalism and chauvinism". He added that the way to cope was by pursuing a "Leninist national policy which includes profound respect for the dignity, honour, culture, language and history of each nation."

Yesterday's unexpected call for a nationalities' plenum was seen in Western embassies as the clearest admission yet by the Kremlin leadership of the problem now posed by the so-called "minorities" in the Soviet Union, which in the case of the Central Asian republics are quickly out-breeding Russians, whose average family includes only one child.

Two two-day committee sessions behind closed doors ended last night with the final humiliation of Mr Gorbachev's former close political ally, Mr Boris Yeltsin, aged 56, who was formally removed from membership of the Politburo — an inevitable move after his unceremonious sacking in November as head of the Moscow Communist Party.

## Whitehall's mandarins face the future



Reform club: Sir Robin Butler (left), head of the Civil Service, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Civil Service, and Mr Peter Kemp, who will take charge of the changes, at the Cabinet Office briefing to explain the upheavals to the press yesterday. (Photograph: Deszai McNeelance)

## Shake-up in Civil Service Making royal palaces and parks pay

Continued from page 1

The Minister's reply was that everything depended on the "framework" contract that Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, drew up.

The first candidates for agency status together contain about one in eight of all civil servants. More would be considered later, Mr Luce said. The candidates announced yesterday are:

● HMSO, which already operates as a "trading fund" with considerable day-to-day independence.

● Jobcentres and unemployment benefit administration which employ some 40,000 civil servants responsible for a £6 billion annual budget.

● Royal Parks and Palaces in London (excluding Buckingham Palace and the Royal Family's own residences).

● Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre and the inspectorate which operates heavy goods vehicle testing stations and supervises MOT testing.

Establishment.

● Meteorological Office.

● Companies Registration Office in Cardiff, London and Edinburgh.

● Passport department.

● Resettlement units for down-and-outs operated by the Department of Health and Social Security.

● Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

"Improving Management in Government: The Next Steps. Report to the Prime Minister. Stationery Office £3.90.

Continued from page 1

Regent's Park, Primrose Hill, Richmond Park, Brompton Cemetery, Greenwich Park and Bushy Park.

These cost £13 million a year and the department acknowledges that they will never pay for themselves. However, the agency will again be expected "to get the maximum revenue they can" from restaurants, kiosks, and other park facilities.

Another candidate for agency management is the new Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, currently managed by the Property Services Agency for the department.

The palaces employ about 300 people and the parks around 600. The staff of the agencies will be predominantly civil servants, but will no longer be part of the department. There will be nothing to stop the employment of outsiders.

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After the Prime Minister had announced changes in the administration of the Civil Service, Mr Michael Foot rose to complain. Since Christmas, Mr Foot has been sporting a bright orange tie, which, situated beneath his white-thatch hair, makes him look much like a mobile straw-hut of the type seen in exotic beach-bars in Bermuda. "One of the reasons for the low morale in the Civil Service is that she has

appointed confirmed Thatcherites to the best jobs" he grunted, his tie swinging in time with his wrath.

Across the way, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, whom unkind intimates have often accused of designing his own clothes, was clad in a shirt that seemed to have been soaked in sour Burgundy. Across his midriff, watch-chains clinked and jangled. In a previous incarnation, Mr Fairbairn may well have been the keeper of a dungeon, or, at very least, the distinguished inhabitant of one. Mr Fairbairn, it emerged, was offended by the cost of one million. Labour National Health spokesman which he claimed, infringed the law. "It would be better to spend the money more charitably," he gulped, before plunging back into his seat.

Mr Tam Dalyell, dressed casually in a light blue V-neck jersey, has been quiet for some time now, perhaps brooding on the sinister facts that have still not been made public concerning the Wars of the Roses. He can usually rely on his fellow conspiracy theorist, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, to point the necessary fingers, but Mr Campbell-Savours is at present waging a war against Mr Selwyn Gummer for his "vindictive, vicious" attacks on the Church. Dame Elaine Kellert-Bowman, who dresses with her sensible black handbag in mind, is having none of it. "At least he's giving a lead, which is more than you are," she screeched in a rare hiccup.

Elsewhere in the House, clothes are divided on a party basis. The more severe Labour members choose to wear dull ties upon which are inscribed little insignia proclaiming their allegiance to causes too serious for bright colours. The even more severe — Jeremy Corbyn, Dave Nellist — dress mainly in beards, supplemented with jackets with zips and open-necked shirts. These sartorial statements draw smoke from the ears of the older Conservative members in their pin-striped suits and brush moustaches. As for the younger Conservatives, they all look, and dress, like Mr Norman Fowler.

Craig Brown

## Commons sketch

## The ties have it at Question Time

Clothes can speak louder than words. This is particularly true where Mr Nicholas Soames is concerned. Though he is, by nature, loud, his clothes are often, by nature, louder. For Prime Minister's Question Time, he was wearing a shiny tie upon which the image of Superman had been superimposed. Though Mr Ian Gow (Cons, Eastbourne) had, earlier in the day, requested, in no uncertain terms, that he remove the offending item, Mr Soames had shown the steady determination of his superhero in sticking to his guns.

The defiantly Scottish Mr Dennis Canavan (Lab, Falkirk West) began to complain that young Nazis in uniform had been jostled and kicked by policemen. Skilled observers, baffled by this apparent change in Mr Canavan's sympathies, discovered, after strenuous consultation, that he had actually been speaking up for young nurses in uniform.

Mr Eric Heffer rose to complain about similar "prissy, puny, lairy and monks", Mr Heffer was wearing a bright red tie of the type worn by many Labour members as if as a clue. But Mr Heffer somehow offsets this clue by tending towards blue and white striped shirts, the traditional uniform of the Conservative benches. Mr Dennis Skinner, who was later to complain of British banks being "bailed out by the British taxpayer" is another socialist blue-and-white striped, and he is also the only member in the House who is always to be seen wearing a country tweed jacket. In another life, he might easily pass muster at a Hunt Ball, though his constant cries of "Maggie, Maggie — Out, Out, Out!" might be a bit of a giveaway.

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Craig Brown

## New road for car licensing

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea and the Vehicle Inspectorate responsible for MOT tests are likely to have their status changed to that of an "executive agency" the Government announced yesterday when it identified 12 candidates for the campaign to improve efficiency in the Civil Service.

The aim of the changes is to remove day-to-day control from Whitehall by making the agencies autonomous.

Greater contact with the private sector is an implicit part of the move though whether that would mean DVLC selling data about vehicles and owners or including

advertising in the licence-renewal circulars is far from clear.

Last night officials were unable to identify how the switch from a directorate to an executive agency would significantly improve efficiency though denied it was the first step towards privatization.

Mr Graham Wattleby, DVLC's director said costs had been cut by 10 per cent over the last three years and documents for the country's 30 million driving licence holders and 22 million registered vehicles were being processed 30 per cent more quickly.

Today's proposals would, he believed, give more scope

for even better management.

Civil Service unions at the 16 storey DVLC at Swansea are to hold mass meetings in the centre's car park today for the 4,200 workers. Last night the union leaders said they feared staff were a "prime target" for changes which might later be imposed on the rest of the Civil Service.

Mr Maurice Wilson, chairman of the DVLC joint trade union committee, said the initial reaction to Mrs Thatcher's statement was one of "concern and worry".

Two years ago the Vehicle Inspectorate achieved gains in efficiency when it was divided into 53 districts and management streamlined.

## Overwhelming vote to call off strike at Ford

Continued from page 1

Under the agreement, negotiations to introduce the new methods will be discussed at local plant level with reference to the national joint negotiating committee if they cannot be resolved.

At the company's Halewood plant on Merseyside, slightly more than two thirds of those who voted decided to accept the improved deal. It represented a major setback for militant shop stewards, who had urged them to vote against the agreement.

Mr Richie Rowlands, chairman of the Halewood shop stewards, said: "We are not unhappy — it just shows how democratic we are in giving

our members all the facts and letting them make up their own minds. We don't see it as a vote of no confidence in us."

At Dagenham, where militant shop stewards had been urging the men to hold out for a one-year, 10 per cent "no strings" settlement, workers at the engine plant voted by 78 per cent for acceptance compared with a 59 per cent rejection of the first offer.

Last night, the company gave the following breakdown of voting: Dagenham assembly, rejection by 1,413 votes to 1,078; Dagenham engine, 78 per cent in favour; Dagenham KD works, 71 per cent in favour; Halewood transmission 64 per cent in favour; Belfast, 79 per cent in favour; Bridgend, 83

per cent in favour; Enfield, 66 per cent in favour; Leamington Spa, 91 per cent in favour; Southampton, 82 per cent in favour; Swansea, 87 per cent in favour; Basildon tractor plant, 61 per cent in favour; Treforest, 95 per cent in favour; Woolwich, 95 per cent in favour.

As Ford prepared to return to normal production, workers at Vauxhall's plant at Ellesmere Port voted to take strike action in protest against pension scheme changes to be introduced in April.

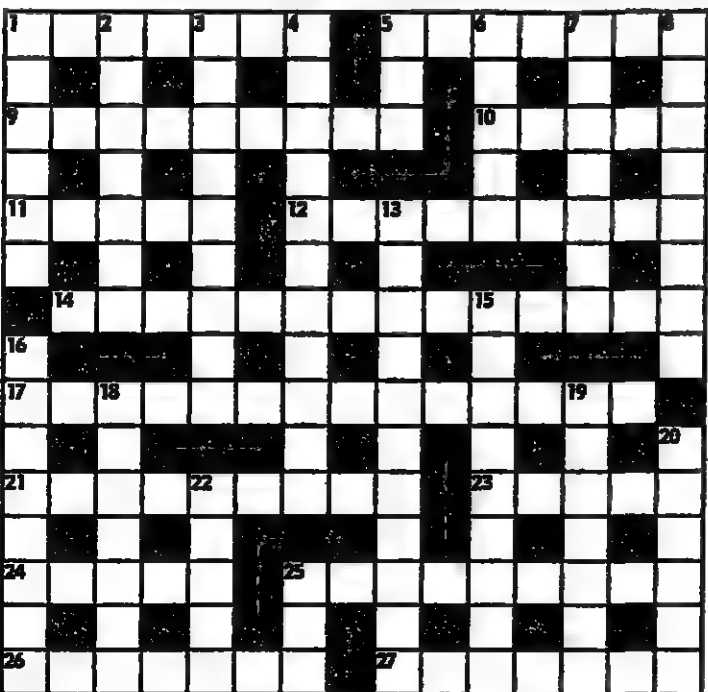
The company has said it intends to use 75 per cent of a £160 million pension surplus to improve existing arrangements, with the remainder being used to invest in the business to enhance job security and help repay debts incurred by big losses in recent years.

A spokesman for the Transport and General Workers' union said: "The money has come from our contributions and we want all of it to be used to improve the scheme."

He said that if that concession was not made on Monday at a meeting of the pension board there would be an all-out strike.

● Damaging image: Sir David Nickson, president of the CBI, said last night that over-reaction to industrial strikes during the past couple of weeks with the suggestion of a spring of discontent and the return of the "British disease" had spread across the world.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,596



- ACROSS**
- Agency to install desk-telephone (7).
  - Pick up service in part (7).
  - Deep extra-covers for some deliveries? (4-5).
  - Capital I found in upholstered seat (5).
  - Stick together in clinic (5); There can be some itching as these terms end (9).
  - The moral is — gout can be treated, he asserts (14).
  - Put out testimonial that can be double-checked (5-9).
  - Popper with two engaging parts (5-4).
  - Old hamlet of South Orpington (5).
  - Lady-love with bad back (5).
  - Flowing from a NE Baltic resort (9).
  - Senior lady longing to be finished outside (7).
  - Shelter here for a tanner (3-4).
- DOWN**
- Spring-term merriment does not include it (6).
  - Old capital that launched the five big banks? (7).
  - Single-handed nipper over the border? (9).
  - Sheep open plain (11).
  - The Colonel's salad-plant (3).
  - Ella ordered this cotton thread (5).
  - Openers of fairs near Diyarbakir said to have title (7).
  - In which pâté-tray is ordered? (3-5).
  - Advancing sum to open business (11).
  - Spend too long at the bar on coach, perhaps (9).
  - Navicular foot-bone to be treated in dock? (8).
  - Trouble with Bunter's form (7).
  - Staff of bishop's office more cheerful after church opening (7).
  - Rising maintenance costs (6).
  - This writer made a pot (5).
  - Something for potting in London gardens, we hear (3).

Concise crossword, page 13

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PELAGIC**  
a. Marine  
b. Pertaining to a heresy  
c. Casuarina
- FAIRBANKS**  
a. A riverine environment  
b. A bridge hand  
c. A style of trousers
- GUSSEY UP**  
a. To settle a bet  
b. To dress up  
c. A Naval dinner call
- APODOSIS**  
a. Part of a conditional  
b. Unconditional surrender  
c. A legal exception

Answers on page 20, column 1

The solution to yesterday's eliminator puzzle 17,595 will appear next Thursday

## WEATHER

It will be generally cloudy over much of the country, especially over eastern regions at first where a little light rain may fall in the morning. Elsewhere some bright or sunny periods are likely, especially in areas sheltered from the mainly moderate north-westerly winds. Maximum temperatures 8-10C (46-50F). Outlook: Showers over Scotland and Northern Ireland. Dry and mild elsewhere with some sunshine.

## ABROAD

Country	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2
Algeria	15-20	1-2	1-2

## AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2

## HIGH TIMES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2

## THE POUND

Country	Rate	Change
Australia	1.50	0.01
Canada	0.75	0.01
France	6.50	0.01
Germany	2.00	0.01
Italy	1.30	0.01
Japan	160.00	0.01
Netherlands	2.20	0.01
Portugal	200.00	0.01
Spain	166.67	0.01
Sweden	6.46	0.01
Switzerland	2.00	0.01
USA	1.50	0.01
Yugoslavia	210.00	0.01

## NOON TODAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2

## AM



## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 70 per cent. Rain: 6 pm to 6 am, 24 mm. Sunshine: 5.54 pm to 6.56 am. Manchester: 5.54 pm to 6.56 am. Penzance: 6.16 pm to 6.55 am.

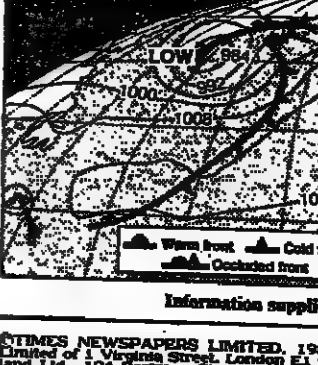
## MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Rain: 6 pm to 6 am, 24 mm. Sunshine: 5.54 pm to 6.56 am.

## YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. about 10C; f. about 50F.

## NOON TODAY



## PM

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2
London	10-15	1-2	1-2

سلا من الامل



Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1389.4 (-7.0)FT-SE 100  
1736.1 (-12.0)Barrings  
23488 (21871)USM (Datastream)  
145.26 (-0.44)

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7445 (-0.0070)W German mark  
2.9614 (-0.0049)Trade-weighted  
74.3 (same)Charterhall  
in £10m  
cash call

Shareholders in Charterhall, the former oil exploration company now used as an investment vehicle by Mr Russell Goward, the Australian entrepreneur, are being asked for £10 million to help pay off bank debts established during last November's £39-million acquisition of Alibon, the shoe shop chain.

The news accompanied half-year profits of £3.98 million, compared with just £453,000 the year before, and a hint from Mr Goward that dividend payments — legally still impossible because of the balance sheet position — may be resumed next year.



City analysts often talk of the efficiency of industry, but how efficient is the City itself? Kenneth Fleet probes the question in *The Times* tomorrow.

## Saunders bill

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman and chief executive, has asked the High Court to check whether his former solicitor's bill is reasonable. Mr Saunders and the solicitor concerned, Payne Hicks Beach, have fallen out over the amount of the bill, which is understood to exceed £500,000.

## SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	2000.83 (-0.16)
Tel Aviv	2487.58 (+845.41)
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam	230.5 (-2.0)
Sydney	1243.9 (+10.2)
Frankfurt	Closed
Commercial	1364.3 (+0.1)
General	4851.3 (+17.7)
Paris CAC	286.3 (+7.7)
Zurich S&P	448.0 (-1.7)
London:	
FT-100 Share	391.85 (-5.42)
FT-100	501.37 (-5.78)
FT Gold Mines	270.9 (+2.0)
FT Financial	95.13 (-0.28)
FT Govt Secs	88.78 (+0.02)
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Closing Prices	Page 27

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:	
Body Shop	325p (+10p)
Handerson	353p (+13p)
Thames	320p (+25p)
Appleyard	320p (+25p)
Fitzwilliam	110p (+13p)
Wholesale Faring	467p (+37p)
Cap & Counties	375p (+15p)
Mervale Moore	315p (+15p)
Graig Shipping	705p (+10p)
Tomkinson	485p (+25p)
NMC Group	182p (+10p)
Transcontinental	210p (+10p)

FALLS:	
Church	440p (-10p)
Wimbleton	525p (-30p)
UK Land	425p (-19p)
Norcross	387p (-12p)
Pearson	633p (-15p)
Prudential	817p (-10p)
Authority Inv	297p (-10p)
Midland	397p (-10p)
Closing prices	

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank 9m-9 1/4%	
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2%-8 3/4%	
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%	
Federal Funds 6 1/4%	
3-month Treasury 5 1/2%-5 3/4%	
30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 3/4%	

## CURRENCIES

London:	
£/\$	1.7445
£/DM	2.9614
£/Sfr	2.4876
£/FF	10.780
£/Yen	234.88
£/Ind	145.26
ECU	20.8268
SDR	17.7276

## GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$448.25 pm \$447.25	
close \$444.00-444.50 (2253.50-54.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$444.40-444.90	

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) pm \$15.70/bbl (\$18.00)	
Domestic latest trading price	

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## Domestic profit wiped out by £1bn Third World provision

## Midland loss totals £505m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The bank reporting season began spectacularly yesterday when Midland Bank announced a pre-tax loss of £505 million — the first loss ever made by a British clearer and worse than many City analysts had predicted.

The loss resulted from a £1.016 billion special provision which Midland made during the year, in common with other international banks, against £4.1 billion of bad debts to Third World countries. Without the provision, the bank would have been able to report a £77 million increase in profits to £511 million.

Large bad debt provisions have depressed the profits of the other three main clearing banks which are due to report their results next week. Lloyds Bank, however, is the only other bank expected to show a loss. Midland is leaving its dividend for the year unchanged at 20.1p.

Sir Kit McMahon, Midland's chairman and chief executive, said that the bank's provisions were now equivalent to 29 per cent of its problem-country loans. That was considerably higher than those of many leading US banks which did not include drawn commitments and trade credit lines when calculating their exposure.

He said: "We now feel we are satisfactorily provisioned and we do not see the need for another big jump in provisions next year." This was

because the debt problem in Latin America was not likely to get substantially worse this year, and the Bank of England was encouraging banks to spread provisioning over several years, he added. He did not expect the bank to take part in this month's sale of bonds by Mexico which is part of the country's latest debt rescheduling package.

Midland's results were almost entirely supported by domestic banking profits, which rose by 35 per cent from £294 million to £396 million as business volume and interest margins rose.

But in other areas the bank reported further substantial losses. International banking

Tempos ..... 24

profits plunged from £54 million to £13 million, mainly because of costs related to Third World debt.

Profits at Midland Montagu, the investment banking arm, fell by half from £83 million to £41 million, largely because of the controversial decision to withdraw from equity market-making and broking. Losses on the operation before it was closed down amounted to £35 million, with a further £11 million expected in closing-down costs. Market-making at Greenwell Montagu ended last March, but the broking operation continued until it was wound up at the end of last month.

About half the profits for Midland Montagu came from treasury operations, with the rest from investment banking, gilts and other operations.

Despite the losses, Sir Kit said the year had been one of great achievement in rebuilding the bank's capital ratios and establishing a new three-year corporate strategy. Midland sold the Clydesdale and Northern banks, raised £700 million in a rights issue and received extra capital from its link with Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. Its equity-to-asset ratio, therefore, rose from 4 per cent to 5.5 per cent — one of the highest in the sector.

He said the group did not need more capital, even under the new capital adequacy ratios being introduced by central banks around the world.

He said the bank had failed to reduce costs sufficiently over the last year. Over the last four years, Midland had cut down the number of its branches to save on costs so that it now had fewer offices than Lloyds Bank. Its cost ratio was still far too high, however, and a further programme of improving the efficiency of branches would help to push costs down in two to three years' time.

Since Hongkong Bank took a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland last year, the co-operation agreement between the two banks was moving forward rapidly.

## Worry over pay growth as jobless fall continues

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Unemployment fell by 50,800 to 2.56 million last month, its 18th successive monthly fall, providing evidence of the continued buoyancy of the economy.

But there was a worrying sign for ministers as the growth of earnings moved up again. Average earnings rose by 8.5 per cent in the 12 months to December, well out of line with the 3.7 per cent rise in retail prices over the same period.

The rate of growth of earnings, which moved up in stages from 7.75 per cent in September to 8.5 per cent in December, is causing great concern to ministers.

## UK UNEMPLOYMENT

	Total	Change
(000)		(000)
Feb	3,067	-45.7
Mar	3,037	-30.2
Apr	3,021	-15.9
May	2,951	-70.5
Jun	2,922	-29.7
Jul	2,873	-49.1
Aug	2,826	-47.8
Sep	2,772	-53.3
Oct	2,714	-58.8
Nov	2,651	-63.9
Dec	2,583	-68.6

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, said: "The cost of excessive pay settlements can only be damaging to future prospects for jobs. They discourage employers from taking on more staff and reduce

opportunities for expanding output."

Although reaction in the stock market was muted with the FT-SE 100 index down by only 12.0 points at 1,736.1, the earnings figures, together with Bank of England data showing a record £5.5 billion surge in bank lending last month, provoked worries about inflation.

Department of Employment officials said that the rate of growth of earnings was the highest since November 1982 but that some of the increase was due to overtime and bonus payments.

The unadjusted unemployment total rose, as is normal in January, increasing by 26,344 to 2,722,154 or 9.8 per cent of the workforce.

## Record surge in bank lending

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Bank lending last month rose by a record £5.5 billion seasonally adjusted. But despite some anxiety before the figures, markets were not unduly perturbed because of the high level of tax payments made by companies, which helped to offset the monetary effects of high lending.

The Bank of England said the surge in lending, which compared with £4.9 billion in the previous month, had been affected by two special factors. Companies had borrowed on a large scale to pay their corporation tax bills, while the interest rates structure during January provided opportu-

nities for companies borrowing from the banks to re-lend at a profit in money markets.

Because of the big public sector repayment, the rise in bank lending produced only a small rise in the broadly defined money supply, M3, of 0.5 per cent after seasonal adjustment. This compares with 1.4 per cent the previous month. The 12-month rise slowed down slightly from 22.8 per cent to 22.3 per cent.

The narrowly defined M0, on which the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has placed emphasis, was also well behaved. Against the market's expectation, it fell 0.3%, leav-

ing the year-on-year rate up from 4.2 per cent to 4.8 per cent.

Ms Joanne Curley, of Morgan Grenfell, said: "There is certainly no reason here for a rise in base rates."

Among the counterparts to M3, not seasonally adjusted, the public sector borrowing requirement fell by £6.3 billion, debt sales to the private sector were down £400 million, while external flows to the public sector rose £100 million. Bank lending (unadjusted) rose £5 billion and the other counterparts fell £600 million.

Comment, page 25

## Birmid staff ponder the future under Blue Circle

## Thoughts turn to early cuts

By Alexandra Jackson

While National Westminster Bank's new issues department began searching for the gremlin which has put the result of Blue Circle's bid for Birmid Quakast back in the melting pot, employees of the Midlands consumer products group are wondering who they will be working for next week.

At the beginning of this week Birmid had, apparently, been taken over by Britain's biggest cement manufacturer. The victory had been secured by a sliver of shares accounting for 0.01 per cent of the total. Now the company may still be independent. The bid has, literally, gone to a recount.

Mr Alan Emson, the finance director of Birmid, acknowledges that living with the uncertainty is worst of all. But he takes time off to observe remarkably cheerfully in the circumstances: "Seeing the grass growing and the sun shining makes me think what a fantastic year it is going to be for lawnmowers."

The minds of Birmid's top management have clearly been taken off the ball. Mr Peter Prateley, the chairman, and Mr Emson, have spent hours in London

making presentations to institutional shareholders to persuade them to back Birmid.

At the divisional level, Mr Tony Bourke, managing director of New World, Birmid's gas cooker business, must have a feeling of déjà vu. Last year, New World was sold to Birmid by TI Group. He points out: "That was an agreed sale to a group which understands consumer products. Now we can move quickly for investment and marketing purposes. TI was a production-led engineering business so it was difficult to get a quick response."

But he expressed some worries about the future: "We are confident of our prospects as a successful market leader but we have worries that we could come across the same problem with Blue Circle, whose main business is cement. It is not necessarily a matter of willingness but more a matter of understanding," he explained.

Mr Bourke has kept the workers well informed: "We have engendered a mood of confidence which allows the workforce to see we are in control, and not

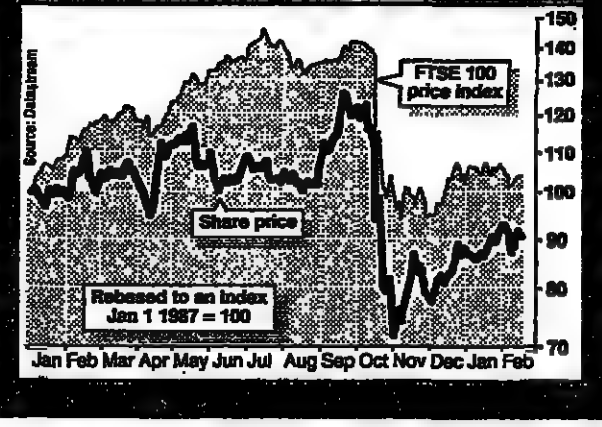
being controlled," he said. "Productivity at the factory level has not suffered."

Mr Frank Barker, a senior shop steward at Quakast Garden Products in Derby which makes 700,000 electric lawnmowers a year, can also confirm that productivity has not suffered. But he observes: "In general, people on the shop floor don't know a lot about shares. They have been quite happy with the way things are. What they fear is a step into the unknown."

"They know that takeovers often lead to redundancies so they fear for their jobs. We have 50 people who have been here over 20 years, several going back to when Quakast was bought by Birmid in 1965. They would not stop here so long if they did not like it."

Meanwhile in the City, all the bankers, brokers and the Takeover Panel are remaining silent as to exactly what is being unveiled in the verification process. They all agree, however, it is in everyone's interest to get the matter clearly resolved. "We should have a result in a matter of days rather than weeks," said Mr Peter Frazier of the

## Midland shares fared badly in a troubled year



## Hepworth's £78m bid for Henderson

By Cliff Fetham

Hepworth Ceramic Holdings, the building materials group, caught the stock market by surprise yesterday when it launched a £78 million takeover bid for Henderson Group, the manufacturer of garage doors and security equipment, which had agreed a merger with Newman Tons Group. The 34p-a-share cash offer is 11p more than the mixture of cash and shares proposed by Newman Tons. Henderson shares jumped 14p to 35p.

Last night Mr Timothy Frankland, the chairman of Newman Tons, said: "We are sticking by our earlier offer. They are offering cash and buying a company for diversification. It is a straight choice for institutions to roll over into a merged company with industrial logic or take cash and get out. We believe institutions would prefer to come in with us. We are confident the Henderson board will continue to support our bid."

Hepworth Ceramic had bought a crucial 23 per cent

holding in Henderson from Evered Holdings, the industrial conglomerate run by the Abdullah brothers.

Mr Sinclair Thomson, the chief executive of Hepworth Ceramic, said he had been looking closely at Henderson for more than a year but lost interest when Evered acquired its stake.

"We always felt that if Evered made a bid it would be with shares. But the stock market crash hit them badly. This weakened our interest in buying the stake."

Hepworth Ceramic is hoping Henderson will still switch its allegiance. A meeting between the two sides yesterday was described as "courteous".

When Newman Tons launched its bid, then worth £77 million, earlier this month a number of shareholders, including the Throgmorton Trust, owning about 18 per cent of Henderson, agreed to back the bid. The sale of its holding gives Evered a profit of about £500,000.

Tempos, page 24

## Asset sales on the way as BP turns in £1.4bn

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP yesterday announced annual after-tax profits of £1.4 billion for 1987, on a historic cost basis. It hopes to have final government approval for its takeover of Britoil, the Glasgow-based independent oil company, within a week.

Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, said the decision now rests with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and he hoped an announcement would be made shortly. He said: "There is a saying that a week is a long time in politics, and we hope the decision will be made within that time."

Sir Peter also announced that in the coming year BP will embark on a programme of disposing of assets that do not fit in with existing businesses, to raise between £600 million and £1 billion. That would bring down its debt-equity ratio to BP's self-imposed "comfort level" of 30 per cent, compared with the 40 per cent mark it is now at, because of purchases.

At noon yesterday BP was sitting on 79.8 per cent of the issued Britoil shares, 29.8 per cent of which it had bought on the open market after it launched its dawn raid in December, and 50 per cent which it has acquired since launching its full takeover bid. The full offer has now been extended until 3pm next Wednesday.

Britoil's advice to the outstanding shareholders is to do nothing until the Government makes an announcement on its golden share in the company. Talks on the role of the golden share are still going on between the Treasury, BP and Britoil.

Sir Peter said BP had always been prepared to give assurances that it would retain and expand the Glasgow operations of Britoil. He said: "It has always been our intention to add value to Glasgow, not to take value away from Glasgow."

He said BP's first task on

taking over Britoil would be to "prioritise" the North Sea assets that Britoil has, and draw up plans for bringing developments forward at a faster pace than BP has always considered Britoil capable of.

However, BP itself is now 20 per cent owned by the government of Kuwait, which stepped in and bought up large tranches of the 31.5 per cent shareholding sold by the Government last year. The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has added another 7 million BP shares to its portfolio over the past two days, taking its stake to 20 per cent.

Sir Peter said BP could live with the Kuwaiti holding, as it had with the former British Government holding, after assurances from Sheikh Ali Khalifa, the Kuwaiti oil minister, who is also deputy finance minister and deputy

Tempos ..... page 24

chairman of the Kuwait Investment Agency which owns the KIO. He said it was a long-term investment and Kuwait had no intention of seeking any managerial input or any board representation.

Sir Peter said: "The KIO holding clouds some perceptions of BP, but it is up to us to show that BP is still as independent a British company as it ever was. We will have to show the world it is not affecting our independence."

The BP final dividend announced for 1987 was set at 8p, making a total of 12.5p compared with the 1986 total of 11.67p. Shareholders on the register on March 4 — and that includes those Britoil shareholders who have accepted BP's cash-plus-share alternative offer — will have the option of taking their dividend in cash or shares. The value of the shares will be calculated from the price quoted during the five days from next Monday.

## Stock Exchange report on NatWest dismissal

By Our City Staff

A full report on the events surrounding the dismissal of Mr Martin Price, the head of option sales at County NatWest Securities last November, is being studied by the Stock Exchange surveillance department.

Mr Price, and two other executives, were sacked last November after the department reported losses of several millions arising from the stock market crash last October.

But NatWest denies reports that it is suing Mr Andrew McLennan, its former equity salesman who was dismissed in October after running up losses of £3 million in the options market.

"We are not taking any legal action at this time," a bank spokesman said last night.

The spokesman also denied knowledge of any industrial tribunal application by Mr Price, who has been reported as wanting to seek redress

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TEMPUS

# Sit on your hands at the BP show

When the history books come to be written, 1987 will be seen as a year of action-packed drama for British Petroleum.

As the story unfolded, the scene shifted from Cleveland, Ohio in the United States, to the Treasury in Whitehall, from Kuwait to Glasgow and back to the Treasury again. We still await the denouement.

Few companies have hogged the headlines for so long or in quite the way BP did last year.

The audience applauded when BP at last mopped up the Standard Oil minority, and gasped with admiration when it paid for the acquisition with a rights issue and manoeuvred the Government off its back in a single sleight of hand.

After the interval, now referred to as Black Monday, the Government share sale flopped disastrously. But before the shocked audience could recover, a mystery purchaser for BP's partly-paid shares made its sinister appearance.

He was soon unmasked, but not before he had amassed a significant stake. The Kuwait Investment Office now has high on 20 per cent of BP's equity, and yesterday, was still buying.

To regain the initiative, BP swooped on Britoil, and with 80 per cent in its pocket, grows more confident daily of coming to an agreement with the Treasury about the golden share, and winning full control of this prize North Sea group.

Most worrying for BP is the presence of the KIO. Even if its intentions are wholly benign, having simply spotted a good long-term investment,

the presence of any shareholder with more than 60 per cent of the partly paid shares will cause as much discomfort as did the original owner of these shares, the British government.

Just as BP's need to raise new equity collided with the Government's desire to sell its shareholding, a similar collision may occur in the future between BP's corporate needs and the Kuwaiti's strategic objectives.

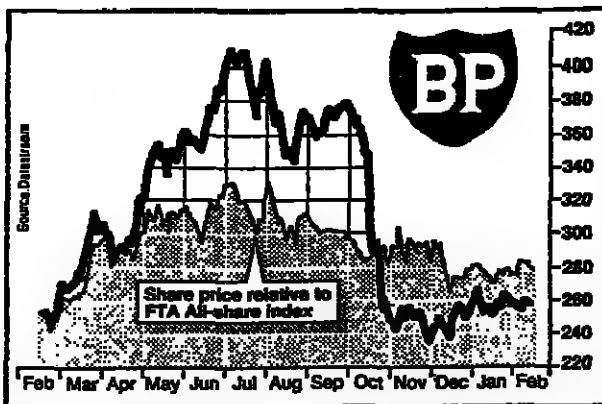
The £2.5 billion bid for Britoil looks inspired on a long-term strategic view. Short-term, it will significantly dilute BP's earnings — BP's cost of capital will be in the region of £250 million a year against Britoil's profits which are forecast to be nearer £130 million for last year.

The acquisition will also raise BP's debt to 40 per cent of debt plus equity, rather than the 30 per cent it professes to feel comfortable with.

Assuming an oil price oscillating between \$16 and \$18 a barrel, (current price \$15.95) BP's net income could dip to £1.3 billion compared with last year's £1.4 billion, leaving the shares on a prospective multiple of about 11.6.

The 105p second instalment due on the partly paid in August may bring out some sellers.

The yield, which at 6.7 per cent is at a 45 per cent premium to the market, is attractive. But the shares have outperformed the FTA All-Share index by 9 per cent over the last year, and it is more than likely that the dismal oil industry fundamentals will reassert themselves. Avoid.



## Midland Bank

Sir Kit McMahon came out fighting yesterday, but his persuasiveness was only partially convincing. As usual, Midland Bank has tangled the problem of comparing this year's results with last year's by rearranging and restating parts of its accounts, which hardly eases his task.

The bad debt provision came as no surprise. The Bank of England's matrix for bad debt, and the fall in the dollar, both came to Midland's aid. The former gave it ample excuse not to raise provisions further apart from pouring the £100 million general provision made last year into the more tax-efficient special provision pot. The exchange rate change cut £1 billion off the dollar value of Midland's exposure to the Third World, enabling it to expand the number of countries covered by the unchanged provisions.

Other parts of the results were more surprising, such as the collapse of international banking profits. The impact of equity trading on Midland

Montagu's profits was also dramatic — and must say a great deal about the suffering of other securities firms.

Only £6 million of Greenwell's £35 million loss was on market-making, leaving £29 million as the margin by which this business failed to cover costs. And most of that was before the crash and the subsequent drop in market turnover. On numbers like that, nerves must be jangling over at BZW and County NatWest.

Domestic banking, however, provided the bright spot in the figures. Useful work has been done to improve profit margins and the quality of the loan book. But even here there are doubts. The first half of the year produced a 50 per cent profit increase, followed by a sharp falling off in the second half. Much of this was because of "seasonal" expenses such as the staff pay settlement. But there was also a reduction in income, and the signs are for a slowing down of British business this year — a phenomenon which all the banks will have to contend with.

Sir Kit insisted that Midland now has a corporate strategy. There are two strands to this: cutting expenses and co-operating with Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. It all looks remarkably like the bridegrooming himself for a full marriage with Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation which will supply the bulk of the international side. Increasingly Midland gives the impression that it sees its future essentially as a dynamic domestic bank.

Meanwhile, the other achievement of the year — rebuilding the bank's capital — has left Midland with some healthy ratios and the confidence to play down the likelihood of a rights issue even under new capital adequacy rules. All things being equal — which they will not be — profits next year should be a little over £700 million. That leaves the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of about 6 with a yield of 7.5, no longer the highest of the big four.

Disaster averted; hard slog still to come.

## Henderson Group

No one ever thought the battle for control of Henderson Group, the manufacturer of garage doors, would be an open and shut case. But few could have imagined that such an unexciting company would attract so many predators.

First to spot the potential — or at least the first to do something about it — were the sharp-eyed Abdullah brothers who picked up a major stake

for their Evered Holdings conglomerate.

It is a fair bet that they would have made a full bid had the stock market crash not scuttled their own share price. But then along came Newman Tonks, the building products company, which claimed to have spotted the potential in Henderson a full 10 years ago.

Henderson, still apprehensive of Evered making a hostile bid, happily recommended an offer from Newman Tonks, valuing the business at a fairly respectable £77 million.

But as one door closed, so another opened. Hepworth Ceramic, fast developing its own building products business, yesterday entered the fray with a slightly higher offer, having picked up the all-important 25 per cent stake from Evered. Newman Tonks has only itself to blame for not securing the holding.

Henderson argued that it would fit in well with Newman Tonks.

Hepworth Ceramic would accept that its case is not so strong but it has a distribution network serving the building trade which should comfortably be able to accommodate the range of Henderson equipment, garage doors for industrial and commercial use, ladders and security systems.

Hepworth Ceramic is offering 345p cash — 11p more than the mixture of cash and paper from Newman Tonks — putting a fairly generous exit price-earnings multiple of 21.2 on Henderson whose shares were languishing at 171p at one stage last year.

Shareholders are on to a winner. They should sit tight for the time being.

STOCK MARKET

## Shares slip as interest rate worries revive

The big City fund managers remained firmly on the sidelines yesterday after another worrying set of economic figures, indicating that another rise in interest rates may be on the way.

Bank lending in January soared to £5.5 billion — which was above most market estimates. The latest average earnings figures also made gloomy reading, leading to fears of another wages explosion and rising inflation. Dealers are worried that this will limit the Chancellor's scope for tax cuts in next month's Budget.

The market appeared to

Associated British Foods, 3p easier at 285p. But Mr Parker points out that the emergence of a big buyer does not guarantee that a bid will follow. He thinks there are better opportunities elsewhere in the sector — like Cadbury Schweppes, down 5p at 247p and Rank's Horley McDougall, 3p dearer at 316p.

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, reflected the dull trend, closing 1p easier at 260p, as just 1.2 million shares changed hands.

But there is talk that the group is lining up another big bid.

Norcross, GKN, Hawking



take events in its stride. Dealers claimed that most of the bad news was already in the prices. But prices drifted lower later in the day as Wall Street opened lower. Turnover was a little better than of late, helped by BP — where 43 million shares were traded following the figures — and a programme trade carried out by one broker. A total of 411 million shares changed hands.

The FT-SE 100 opened lower and drifted throughout the day, closing 12 points down at 1,736.1. The FT index of 30 shares fell 7 points to 1,589.4.

Government securities reversed earlier falls of 2½p, helped by a firmer US bond market.

BP lost an early lead, to close 1p lower at 257p, while the partly-paid firm fell 1p to 75p following full-year figures, showing net profits climbing from £817 million to £1.39 billion. The Kuwait Investment Office was out and about first thing, topping up its holding in BP via the new shares. It is estimated to have bought another 4 million, lifting its purchases in the past couple of days to 7 million. The KIO now owns about 20 per cent of the shares.

County Natwest, the broker, is having second thoughts about Northern Foods — down 2p at 278p — and the possibility of someone building a

Sideley, Stetley and Sels have all been tipped in recent months as potential targets. The prospect of another star at Pilkington is also not being ruled out.

The whispers have also spread to Europe with Punt the West German sports supplies group, denying a Wednesday that it was able to sell a large stake to BTR. But the best bet is a BTR bid for Norcross, the printing and building supplies group at the subject of a £570 million bid from Williams Holdings last year.

Some dealers are convinced that it has been buying shares in Norcross and will not disclose a stake.

Autler, the manufacturer of luggage and travel goods, rose 6p to 186p on growing hopes that bid may be just round the corner. Saville Gordon, the Midlands conglomerate, holds an 8 per cent stake in market men claim it is poised to increase its holding before launching a full bid.

Mr Geoff Allum, an asset at County NatWest, the broker, pours cold water on takeover stories and is reluctant to buy BTR.

BTR has full-year figures due out next month and Allum is forecasting pre profits of £585 million against £505 million last year.

Norcross finished 12p down at 388p.

GKN held steady at 31 despite a big review of company by Mr Paul Cotton and Mr Richard Harwood two analysts at Morgan Grenfell Securities, the broker, wrote the shares as a buy.

They believe that GKN's excellent value in the current difficult economic climate.

Wholesale Fittings, the sex-based wholesale electronics distributor, sprang to a closing 32p higher at 46p, with speculators excited by news that Thomson T-Line, the industrial conglomerate, had acquired a 4.72 per cent stake.

Thomson T-Line achieved a rapid transformation which has seen it change from an ordinary maker of caravans and trailers to mini-conglomerate in under two years.

Earlier this month, bought the Vernons foot pools business from Mr Rert Sangster, the millions race-horse owner, for a million. TTL's shares resumed at 108p.

Michael Clark at Geoffrey Frost

## Manx boom lifts Cresta into profit

By Michael Tate

Now that "closed" signs have gone up in Jersey and Guernsey business is booming in the Isle of Man, according to Mr Brian O'Connor, chairman of Cresta Holdings, and he has evidence. Cresta made profits of £273,000 in 1987, against a loss of £50,000 in the previous year.

Douglas-based Cresta, listed in London last summer, reports earnings of 5.5p a share and is paying a gross dividend of 0.75p a share — 0.6p to UK residents because of the Isle of Man's 20% withholding tax.

Mr O'Connor says the strict banking supervision rules introduced by the Manx Government three years ago have encouraged a big influx of businesses to the island and helped Cresta's financial services operations — estate

agency and business administration — to lift profits to £114,000 to £462,000.

Its retirement homes development company made £257,000 in its first full year other construction interest earned £118,000, and the private communications vision reported £109,000. motor division recovered from losses of £191,000 to contribute £27,000.

Cresta has been buying Britain and by the end of year expects to be making per cent of its profits out of its island base. More acquisitions are planned. The £1.5 million remaining from last October's £6 million fund-raising, a guaranteed bank facilities, possibly, shares and convertible loan stock. Mr O'Connor is aiming for a 60-40 split in favour of Britain.

## BP GROUP RESULTS, 1987

# A momentous year for BP

## WHAT WE DID

We acquired the remaining shares in Standard Oil, reinforcing our position as one of the three largest oil companies in the world.

We carried out exploration in 27 countries, increased oil production by 5.6%, and still managed to increase our reserves by 7%.

We confirmed our commitment to the North Sea by making our offer for Britoil.

We achieved a 70% increase in historical cost profit.

We were able, for the fifth year in succession, to announce an increased dividend to shareholders.

## HOW WE DID

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS	1987	1986
GROUP PROFIT (before extraordinary items)		
—Historical cost	£1391m	£817m
—Replacement cost	£1308m	£1779m
Earnings per share	24.9p	14.9p
Dividend per Ordinary Share for full year	12.5p	11.67p



Britain at its best.

محكمة من الاموال



# Plessey on target with GEC telecommunications merger

By Joe Joseph

Plessey, the electronics group, is confident of meeting an April 1 target for merging its telecommunications activities with those of General Electric Company, its British rival. A formal Class 1 Circular should be out early next month, allowing time for a Plessey extraordinary meeting to approve the deal by the end of March.

Denying that the £1.2 billion joint venture might be delayed as a result of problems agreeing the marriage terms, Sir John Clark, Plessey's chairman, said: "This is an extraordinarily complex deal and inevitably takes time to complete. However, both parties share a mutual target of April 1 to start operations as a joint venture company and negotiations are near completion."

Making clear that Plessey had no second thoughts about the deal, Sir John added: "We are satisfied that this joint venture is in the best interests of our shareholders." While a delay was possible, it was "neither party's aim."

"In the event it is damaging to delay and there is every



Confident: Sir John Clark, Plessey's chairman, yesterday (Photograph by James Morgan)

incentive to meet the deadline. Uncertainty should be removed as quickly as possible," he said.

The assurance on the steady course of the negotiations was accompanied by a parallel assurance that Plessey's final quarter figures would be a record and would do much to brighten the company's dull performance so far this year.

"We're going to have a good fourth quarter," Sir John predicted.

As warned at the half-way stage, Plessey yesterday reported a loss for the third quarter, albeit slightly smaller than some analysts had been expecting.

Sir John blamed lower orders from British Telecom for System X digital exchanges and the weighting of profit-taking on major contracts

towards the end of the year for the fall in taxable profits from £45.1 million to £37.1 million in the three months to January 1. For the first nine months of the year, profits sank 20.5 per cent to £105.3 million.

Third quarter turnover was down from £337.9 million to £280.8 million, resulting in a cumulative nine-month fall of 14 per cent to £1.01 billion. Brightening Plessey's pros-

pects, Sir John said, were "a growing order book, in excess of £1.55 billion - an increase of 15 per cent since April 1987 - and the profit potential from our acquisitions of Sipplan in the US and the worldwide semiconductor business of Ferranti."

He added: "We continue to make progress in our stated strategy of reducing dependence on our two major customers - British Telecom and the Ministry of Defence. For example, in our defence electronics division the order book for non-MOD customers has increased by 59 per cent over the year."

Responding to recurrent speculation that Plessey is negotiating the purchase of GEC's semiconductor activities, Sir John said: "Presently we are not, but that talks in the near future were 'a possibility.' How strong a possibility? 'Enough said,' Sir John said.

Plessey is to switch to half-yearly results from the next financial year.

"It is clear from past experience that quarterly results are often misleading and can give the wrong impression on trends," Sir John said.

## Petrocorp purchase faces new obstacles

By David Young

Energy Correspondent

The British Gas £300 million purchase of the New Zealand State oil and gas company Petrocorp could be delayed by a move by one of the groups in which competed with it for the company.

Brierley Investments Limited (BIL), which has a 15 per cent stake in Petrocorp, and which made an offer to acquire a 70 per cent stake in the company, has been asked to underwrite the remaining 85 per cent of the government shareholding if it were to be sold to the New Zealand public, is seeking permission to increase its present holding.

Under New Zealand law it is not possible to have government approval to add to its holding, although it has said that it has agreed to finally decide whether it will increase its stake to 100 per cent or not.

The BIL chief executive, Mr. Collins, said that the decision had yet to be made on whether it will sell its 15 per cent stake to British Gas. He said: "There is a real possibility that we would like to look at increasing our shareholding."

British Gas could face two other obstacles to the deal in New Zealand.

Mr. Jim Bolger, the opposition National Party leader, said his party would introduce private member's Bill in an attempt to prevent the company from falling into overseas hands. Labour Party MP David Macdonald, who would be supporting such a measure.

And Maori tribes said they would take court action to block the sale until their outstanding land claims had been settled. The tribes are claiming the return of more than a million acres of land in the North Island province of Northland, where Petrocorp has substantial assets.

## Royale Belge bows out of battle for La Générale

By Colin Narkrough

Royale Belge, Belgium's leading insurance company, yesterday said it had sold its 3.7 per cent holding in Société Générale de Belgique - "La Générale" - the country's biggest holding company and target of a bitter and protracted takeover battle.

A spokesman for Royale Belge said the 1.05 million share stake took the insurer out of the battle in which shifting alliances of Belgian and French interests are seeking to block a hostile bid from Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian entrepreneur.

Some analysts saw the development signalling the exit of Group Bruxelles Lambert, the main shareholder in Royale Belge, from the intricate power struggle, leaving Financière de Suez de France better positioned to seek control of La Générale for the Franco-Belgian grouping it leads.

Royale Belge did not disclose the price obtained for selling its stake to Luxembourg's Banque Générale, in which La Générale has an indirect holding, but analysts believed the disposal was made at 5,000 Belgian francs per share.

The Luxembourg buyer is 44 per cent owned by Générale de Banque, Belgium's largest banking house in which La Générale currently has a 13.47 per cent stake. This will be diluted to 10 per cent under a cross-holding deal reached last week with Amro Bank of The Netherlands.

Royale Belge, whose main shareholders are Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, another leading Belgian holding company, and the French insurer, Union d'Assurance de Paris, will not now be subscribing to the defensive capital increase planned by La Générale.

Signor de Benedetti claims to have control of 38 per cent of La Générale and has launched a bid for another 15 per cent at 4,000 francs a share.

Despite an earlier appeal from M. François Guillaume, the French agriculture minister, for the banks to help prevent French food firms falling into foreign hands, the government has indicated it would not oppose a Ferruzzi takeover of Lesieur.

French sugar subsidiary, Beghin-Say.

Lesieur's mushroom unit, Royal Champignon, and its canned food division, William Saurin, would remain under the control of Lesieur's parent, Saint Louis, in which Ferruzzi has been buying shares since November and now holds a stake of 12.39 per cent.

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## High level of demand for AMI

By Alexandra Jackson

The offer for sale of AMI Healthcare, the hospitals group, was 2.3 times oversubscribed. Employees' preferential applications have been allocated in full. Miss Jane Kelly, a director, said: "We are delighted, particularly in these markets, to have received this level of interest from private individuals and institutional investors alike."

Applicants for 200 shares will receive 150 shares; those for 400 to 1,000 shares will receive 50 per cent of the shares applied for; and those requesting 1,500 shares and above will be allocated 42.5 per cent.

The sale comprises 35 per cent of all the shares, putting a value of £142.5 million on the company.

Lists for hand-delivered applications for London Forfeiture offer for sale closed yesterday, but application forms received by post will be accepted until tomorrow. No indication has been given as to the initial interest shown for the offer, so as not to give postal applicants an advantage.

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## Markets bordering on verge of complacency

For a market which is supposed to be beset with worries about overheating, the reaction to yesterday's economic news was bizarre. The equity market scarcely blinked, and gilt edged with reasonable gains on the day, with some reports of institutional buying.

It is good to see some symmetry in the reaction of the markets. The failure to rally after Tuesday's very good public sector borrowing figures was matched by an absence of panic selling after 11.30am yesterday. Even so, the markets' cool response appeared to border on the verge of complacency.

To take the three relevant figures in turn, beginning with average earnings. The increase in the rate to 8.5 per cent in December continued the worrying trend of the previous two months. Little comfort can be drawn from the fact that the recent increase has been concentrated in service industries. The trend of settlements in manufacturing, including that at Ford, points to faster growth in manufacturing earnings this year, and a considerably poorer outlook for unit wage costs than the 2.7 per cent rise in the 12 months to December.

Overtime and bonus payments may have helped explain a little of the average earnings rise, but a breakdown of service sector earnings suggests that many of the areas currently experiencing strong earnings growth are not those where overtime and bonuses are the norm.

There were mitigating factors in the

£5.5 billion bank lending rise last month, and not just the fact that there was wild talk in the market beforehand of a £9 billion figure. There was almost certainly round-tripping, as the Bank of England almost brought itself to admit between gritted teeth. There may have been some switching between foreign currency and sterling borrowing, and the exceptionally high corporate tax payments would have had some effect on lending. Even so, all these may only mean that the underlying growth in bank lending is too fast for comfort, at about £4 billion a month, rather than outrageous, as implied by the £5.5 billion figure.

The third leg of the overheating picture was provided by the unemployment data, with the adjusted total down by 50,900 last month. Those looking for signs of a slowdown in the economy will have to look hard in these figures. True, there was a second successive monthly fall in vacancies, and the exceptionally mild January weather may mean that the job market looked stronger than it was last month. But the official view is that labour market remains very buoyant and, taken with other recent economic evidence, it is hard to argue with that.

The Chancellor is unlikely to act on interest rates as long as sterling remains rock solid against the mark. But the view is starting to gain ground that a sterling rate somewhere above DM3 may be needed to counter the pressures of overheating.

## A central bank's vital task

The managers of at least one American-owned London securities house have been deeply impressed by the Bank of England's strong-arm tactics in making sure the second-line blue chip securities firms were kept supplied with credit during the October crash. Bank officials, they explained, went to the trouble of asking their treasurer if any of their usual bankers had cancelled and withdrawn their credit lines. And, hey presto, those very banks were soon on the telephone, solicitously inquiring whether any funds were required.

Impressive it may be, but scarcely surprising. The saving grace of the crisis was that share prices plummeted so fast that Treasury and central banks were rapidly alerted to the danger of a financial collapse, learning instantly from blueprints of the 1929 crash, unearthed from long memories, archives and, if necessary, City bookshops.

The Bank acted fast with the Stock Exchange to keep tabs on firms' losses and Nigel Lawson, with commendable insight, swiftly abandoned the minister's natural predilection to make light of what was happening on the exchanges, in favour of action to isolate the financial epidemic.

He and the Bank of England called for credit to be maintained and cut interest rates against the grain of monetary trends. The US Federal Reserve rapidly followed suit. Nor, it turns out, were these merely lofty exhortations.

Behind the public words, the Bank of

England was making sure that the easier credit it had permitted was put to good use to stop any chain of financial collapse before it started. It appears to have worked, making nonsense of any ideological or political objections to helping the market work better in crisis.

That is part of the central banker's job. The Bank of England's power to get its way without formal right of command was increasingly challenged during the days of increasing arrogance among international financial houses in the 18 heady months up to the crash. That authority rapidly reasserted itself when trouble came that could affect all regardless of their own prudence.

Bankers and securities companies allowed their arms to be twisted (however complacently) for the same reason as they have done for nearly two hundred years. They trust the Bank's understanding and commitment to the health of the system.

The Bank was not inclined to comment yesterday. That is clearly a case of satisfied reticence rather than embarrassment. For the events of October greatly strengthen the central bank's previous role as the ultimate supervisor of the financial markets, previously in decline. When Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, commended central bankers for this vital task rather than rule-makers like the Securities and Investments Board and America's SEC or ministries of trade or finance, his wisdom was no doubt mixed with gratitude.

Behind the public words, the Bank of

## APPOINTMENTS

Henry International: Mr Nicholas Terry has been made deputy managing director of Henry Architects and Engineers and Mr David Badder managing director of Henry Program Management.

Sphere Drake Insurance Group: Mr John Head has joined the board.

Scott Ltd: Mr Andrew Carr-Locke is now the financial director.

Michelsons: Mr Norman Hinchings is named as export director and Mr Robert Moore as director responsible for Michelsons' shirt division.

Security Settlements: Mr Reginald Popham becomes a non-executive director.

Blackwood Hodge: Mr Roger Fittington will become chairman and Mr George Law deputy chairman, both from May 12.

## Gentry anded in row

deal between the Duke of Devonshire, aged 68, the country and the Countrywide commission, comprising the Duke's son and heir, the Marquess of Hartington, from £18 million capital transfer tax upon his father's death, has come under fire. As part of the deal, made some 10 years ago, the Duke's Chatsworth Settlement Trust agreed to conserve his Bolton Abbey estate in North Yorkshire - 10,000 acres of scenic farmland and grouse moor plus a fine abbey - for public enjoyment. Locals now claim at the Duke's - whose son lives at Beamsley Hall, on the estate - promised to improve the estate, to which the public had access, with landscaping and the addition of recreational facilities. And, at a meeting yesterday of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, it was alleged that he had done nothing. North Yorkshire County Councilor Keith Sawyer, described it as "the final transfer of land from the Duke to the public for not a penny." At Peter Bostock, the secretary and solicitor to the Settlement Trust, said: "There was a question of the Duke derelicting to do anything to improve the land. An exemption to tax was given on the grounds that the land was of national scenic importance and the agreement was that nothing would be done to spoil it."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### The Devil's advocates

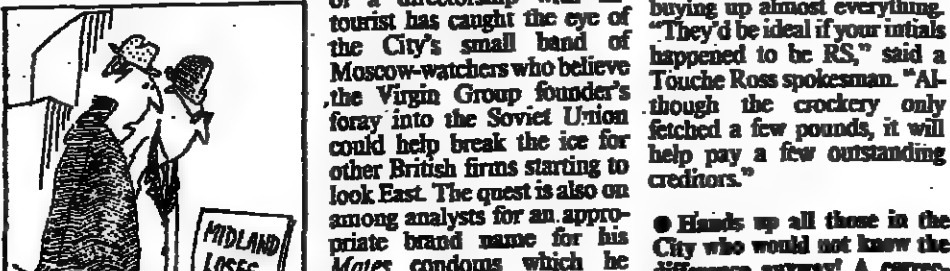
Thought for the day for City lawyers speaking at the 75th annual dinner of the Institute of Petroleum the other evening. Arne Oien, the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy, had them rolling in the aisles when he told the tale of how St Peter was carrying out his routine inspection of the boundary fence between heaven and hell.

Unbudgeted

Andrew Smith, economist at CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruckshank, has lost the Chancellor's Budget speech at least the version he'd prepared for the firm's prediction, which will be presented

Red guard

Richard Branson's acceptance of a directorship with touristist has caught the eye of the City's small band of Moscow-watchers who believe the Virgin Group founder's foray into the Soviet Union could help break the ice for other British firms starting to look East. The quest is also on among analysts for an appropriate brand name for his Mates condoms which he hopes to market there. One suggestion I heard this one has promise - *Tovarischi*, which, translated, means Comrades. Whatever the name, they should have no difficulty outselling the current leading brand in Moscow, a robust, Indian-made prophylactic, known to most Soviet men by its nickname: *glushers*.



"I told them, but they wouldn't listen"

## Saucers fail to fly

The final remnants of Freddie Laker's failed airline have finally come down to earth. Touché Ross, the airline's liquidator, have, I hear, just disposed of the last remaining relics of the Laker empire - all 17,000 pieces. The relics in question were part of a Wedgwood Regency bone china tea and dinner service, originally intended for use by the airline's first-class passengers. White, with a classic gold rim and embossed with the initials RS, the crockery, believed to have cost Laker about £7,000, had, however, never seen the inside of an aircraft or even been unpacked. It was still with Wedgwood when Laker went bust. In all, about 600 complete sets comprising cup, saucer, two plates, salad bowl, burner dish and coaster went under the hammer at Gatwick and were sold at £6 a set - 75 per cent below the cost price. The rest were sold as job lots - with a Dagenham Jeweller buying up almost everything. "They'd be ideal if your initials happened to be RS," said a Touché Ross spokesman. "Although the crockery only fetched a few pounds, it will help pay a few outstanding creditors."

Hands up all those in the City who would not know the difference anyway! A correction in yesterday's *Northern Echo* reads: "Tony Carlisle, one of the entertainers at the Miss England contest at Stackton on Monday night is a George Michael look-alike, not a Michael Jackson look-alike as stated in our report."

Carol Leonard

## California bill aims to ease curbs on bids by US banks

Sacramento (Reuter) - A bill has been introduced into the California legislature which seeks to allow any US bank to bid for a Californian bank if it is the subject of a foreign acquisition attempt.

Mr Ross Johnson, a state assemblyman and one of the bill's sponsors, said the measure would not affect Bank of Tokyo's proposed \$750 million (£428 million) purchase of Standard Chartered Bank's US Bank subsidiary in Los Angeles.

"It's merely coincidental that the two events (the bill and the Union Bank sale) are occurring at the same time," Mr Johnson said.

Under current California

law, banks not based in 12 western US states will not be allowed into California until 1991, but foreign banks doing business in the state are allowed to buy other Californian institutions.

Under federal law, foreign banks may do business in the US, but they may operate in only one state.

"My intent is not to discourage foreign investment... but it doesn't seem fair to me to encourage foreign investment to the exclusion of domestic banks," Mr Johnson said.

Under the proposed legislation, any US bank could request notification of an at-

tempt by a foreign institution to acquire a Californian bank, he said. The US bank would then have 90 days to submit a competing bid.

Mr Johnson, who is vice chairman of the state assembly's finance and insurance committee, said he expects the committee to hold initial hearings on the legislation within the next few weeks.

At \$290 billion, California banks have the second largest asset base in the nation after New York, the California Bankers Association said. The association said it opposes any attempt to allow banks outside the west into California before 1991.

## Record year for cognac sales

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The cognac producers of France had a record year in 1987 with nearly 162 million bottles of their brandies being shipped out of the area round the towns of Cognac and Jarnac. That was an increase of 8.8 per cent over 1986.

It was mainly because the taste for cognac grew in the US - the biggest market for brandy - and the Far East.

Britain, the second largest market, saw a levelling off in shipments following a 9.2 per cent increase the previous year. But trade reports in Britain have indicated that there has probably been some growth in actual sales during 1987 in a spirits market which

Gerard Sturm, the director of the Bureau National du Cognac, who added: "It clearly shows Americans are moving more and more towards high quality products in an environment which is quite hostile to alcoholic products."

Shipments to Asia were up by 30 per cent, with Hong Kong taking 31 per cent more, Japan more than 20 per cent extra, Singapore an extra 27 per cent and Malaysia another 22 per cent.

Shipments to Europe as a whole were stable, showing a marginal rise of 0.5 per cent. West Germany, like Britain, retained its 1986 level after two years of strong growth.

## Daimler profits hold firm

By Our City Staff

Daimler-Benz, West Germany's biggest industrial group, best known for its Mercedes cars, yesterday announced that it managed to hold profits steady last year, despite the braking effect of the dollar slump.

The diversified motor, aerospace and defence group estimated that the lower dollar, which made West German goods internationally less competitive, wiped about DM2 billion (£671 million) off sales.

But in contrast to the dramatic profits and sales slide reported by Porsche, whose high-performance cars were badly hit in the US, Mercedes cars brought Daimler a virtually unchanged DM31.5 billion in revenue last year, overcoming a 10 per cent fall in sales to the US market.

The Stuttgart company said group profits were in line with the DM1.8 billion seen in 1986, but gave no details. Sales were 2 per cent up at DM67 billion.

While car sales were flat, commercial vehicle sales were up 8 per cent at DM19.2 billion, with demand for heavy vehicles proving particularly strong.

The figures, contained in a letter to shareholders, point to slightly higher profits being announced for last year which should allow Herr Edzard Reuter, the chairman, to keep the dividend at least unchanged at DM12, as he has indicated earlier.







airfax rules  
Maxwell aff  
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n Russian lin

Opening dip for

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 8. Dealings end today. Settlement day February 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25)

**Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator**

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash at last
1	Staveland	Industrials S-Z	
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	
3	Turnit	Building Roads	
4	Berkley Op	Building Roads	
5	Wilson Bowden	Building Roads	
6	Conder Op	Building Roads	
7	MBS	Electronics	
8	Reggredge Brck	Building Roads	
9	KRM (a)	Food	
10	Maintenance Brm	Industrials L-R	
11	SFP	Industrials S-Z	
12	BSG	Property	
13	Crosby James	Industrials A-D	
14	Black	Electronics	
15	Centenary Ind	Industrials A-D	
16	Bren Walker	Leisure	
17	APV	Industrials A-D	
18	Lancaster	Motors/Aircraft	
19	Hanover	Industrials E-K	
20	Holical Bar	Property	
21	Levinco	Motors/Aircraft	
22	Exponent	Industrials E-K	
23	Adience	News/Pub	
24	Smith (S) C	Food	
25	Ford Motor	Motors/Aircraft	
26	Byan	Food	
27	ETP	Chemicals/Plas	
28	Loren	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Burgess	Industrials A-D	
30	Portsmouth Sun	News/Pub	
31	Willingworth	Textiles	
32	Pentland Ind	Industrials L-R	
33	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	
34	Allied Lon	Property	
35	Irish Dist	Beverages	
36	Scapa	Industrials S-Z	
37	Country & New	Property	
38	Evered	Industrials E-K	
39	Bedlam	Building Roads	
40	Wilkes (James)	Industrials S-Z	
41	Forward Tech	Electronics	
42	Wair	Industrials S-Z	
43	Swadell Perkins	Building Roads	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

**Weekly Dividend**

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1992/93	High	Low	Open	Close	Yld	Grm
100% Govt	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Corp	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Int	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ex	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Div	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ind	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Tech	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Energy	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Health	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Media	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Retail	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Telecom	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Transport	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Utilities	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% World	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Global	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Asia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Africa	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Oceania	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Latin Am	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Middle East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Far East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Russia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00

IVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1992/93	High	Low	Open	Close	Yld	Grm
100% Govt	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Corp	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Int	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ex	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Div	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ind	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Tech	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Energy	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Health	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Media	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Retail	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Telecom	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Transport	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Utilities	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% World	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Global	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Asia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Africa	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Oceania	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Latin Am	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Middle East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Far East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Russia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00

IN FIFTEEN YEARS

1992/93	High	Low	Open	Close	Yld	Grm
100% Govt	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Corp	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Int	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ex	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Div	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ind	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Tech	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Energy	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Health	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Media	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Retail	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Telecom	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Transport	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Utilities	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% World	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Global	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Asia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Africa	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Oceania	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Latin Am	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Middle East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Far East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Russia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00

DATED

Contract	High	Low	Open	Close	Yld	Grm
100% Govt	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Corp	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Int	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ex	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Div	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Ind	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Tech	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Energy	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Health	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Media	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Retail	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Telecom	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Transport	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Utilities	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% World	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Global	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Asia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Africa	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Oceania	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Latin Am	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Middle East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Far East	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Russia	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Eastern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Central Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Western Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Northern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00
100% Southern Europe	100.00	99.95	100.00	99.95	0.00	0.00



[illegible]

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

هكذا من الامل







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Figure 1















**ORDER OF PLAY (Sunday):** Third round (best of nine frames): E Charlton (Aus) v S James (Eng); S Francisco (SA) v J Beattie (Can); T Griffiths (Wali) v M Morris (Can); A Higgins (N Irl) v T Jones (Eng); T Meo (Eng) v G Wilkinson (Eng); J Spencer (Eng) v F Davis (Eng); A Williams (Eng) v N Aspinall (Eng); J Hurren (Can) vs.







